4

PETOS

INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

Volume 4

Interviews with Monster Girls Characters

Dullahan

Kyoko Machi
Class 1-B

- A demi of Irish folklore whose head and body are separate.
- Likes her head to be held.
- In love with Takahashi-sensei.

Succubus

Sakie Sato

- Math teacher.
- Lives in an isolated, dilapidated house so as not to unintentionally arouse anyone.
- Romantic history: zilch.
- Has a crush on Takahashi-sensei.

Snow Woman

Yuki Kusakabe
Class 1-A

- Exudes cold air and weeps ice under stress.
- At first, avoided contact with others due to doubts about her own nature.

Himari Takanashi
Class 1-C

- Human
- Hikari's younger twin sister.
- Good grades, mature attitude—polar opposite of her sister.

Satake
Class 1-A

- Classmate of the demis.
- Easy-going.

Ota
Class 1-A

- Classmate of the demis.
- Often seen with Satake.

Kimura
Class 1-C

- Classmate of the demis.

Imori
Class 1-C

- Classmate of the demis.
- Talked about Yuki behind her back with Kimura.

**"Demi-humans" are just a little different from us—
these days, they go by "Demis."
Their problems are as adorable as they are.**

*DEMIS: SHORT FOR "DEMI-HUMANS."

Vampire

Hikari Takanashi
Class 1-B

- Likes liver, tomato juice.
- Receives blood from the government once a month.
- Opinions on romance: plenty; actual experience: none.

Tetsuo Takahashi

- Biology teacher.
- Fascinated by demi studies since college.
- Tries his best to understand demis.

INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

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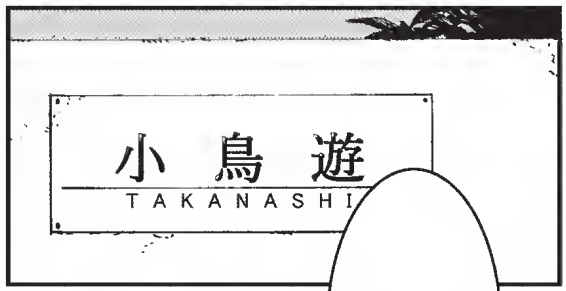
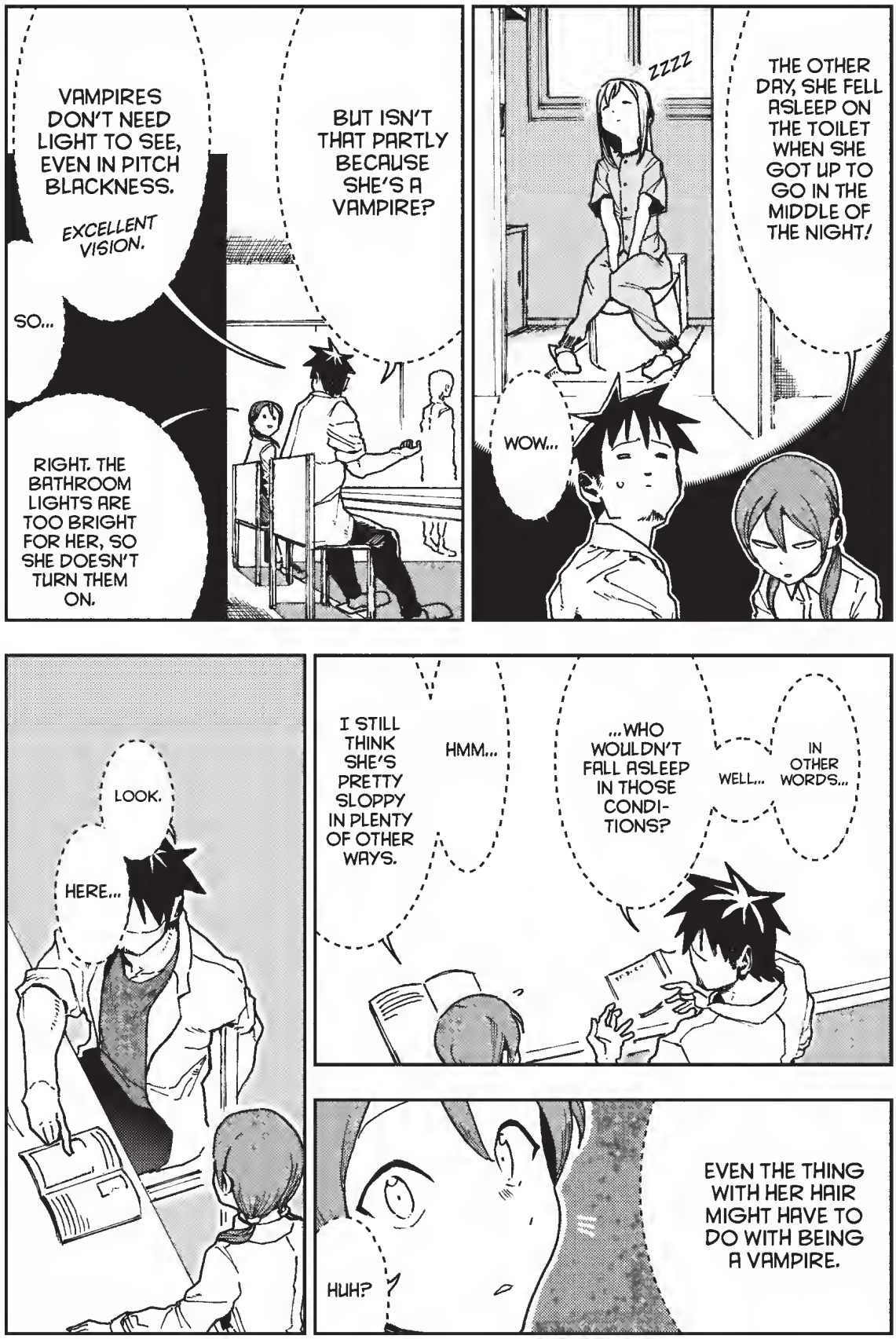
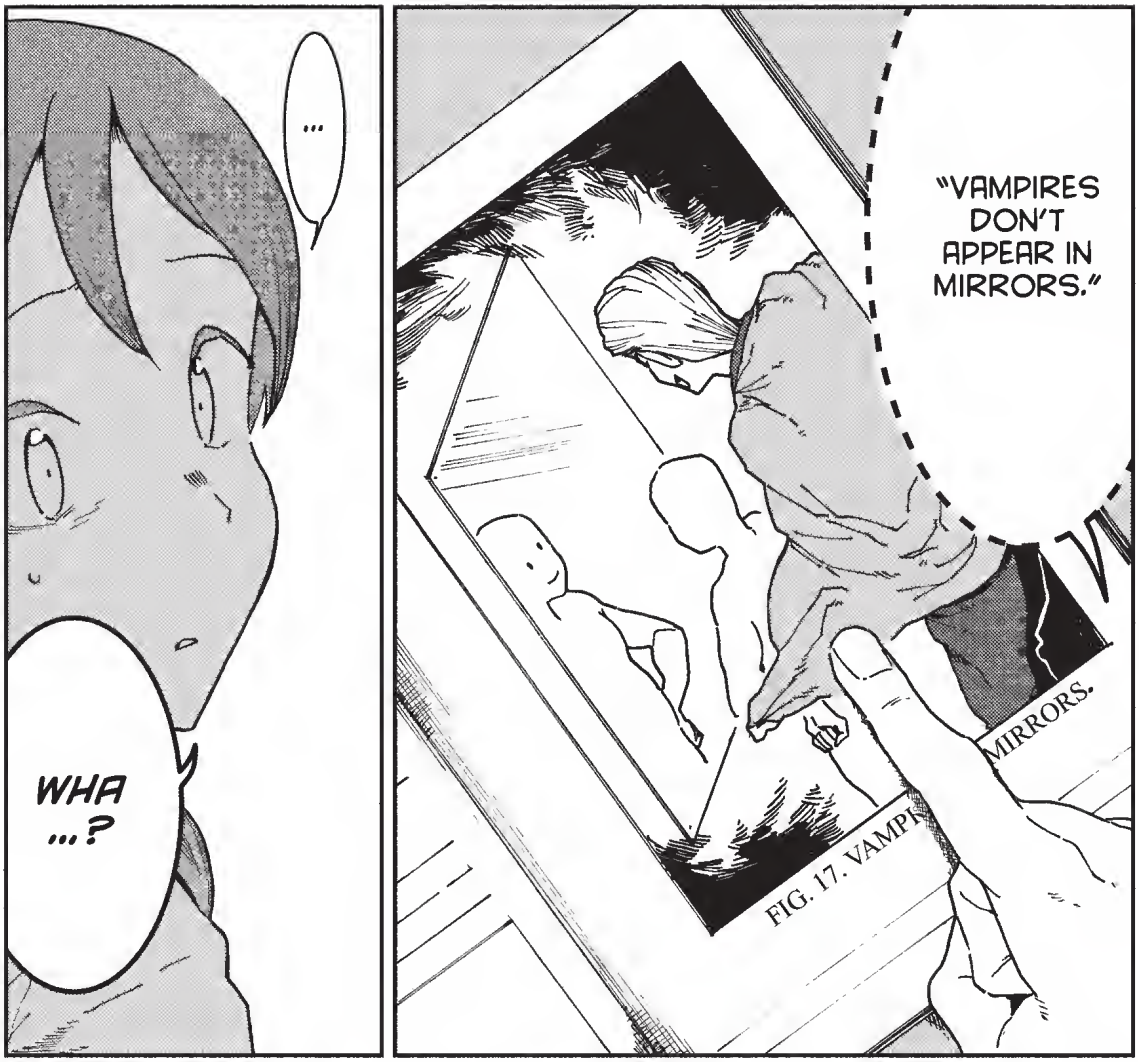
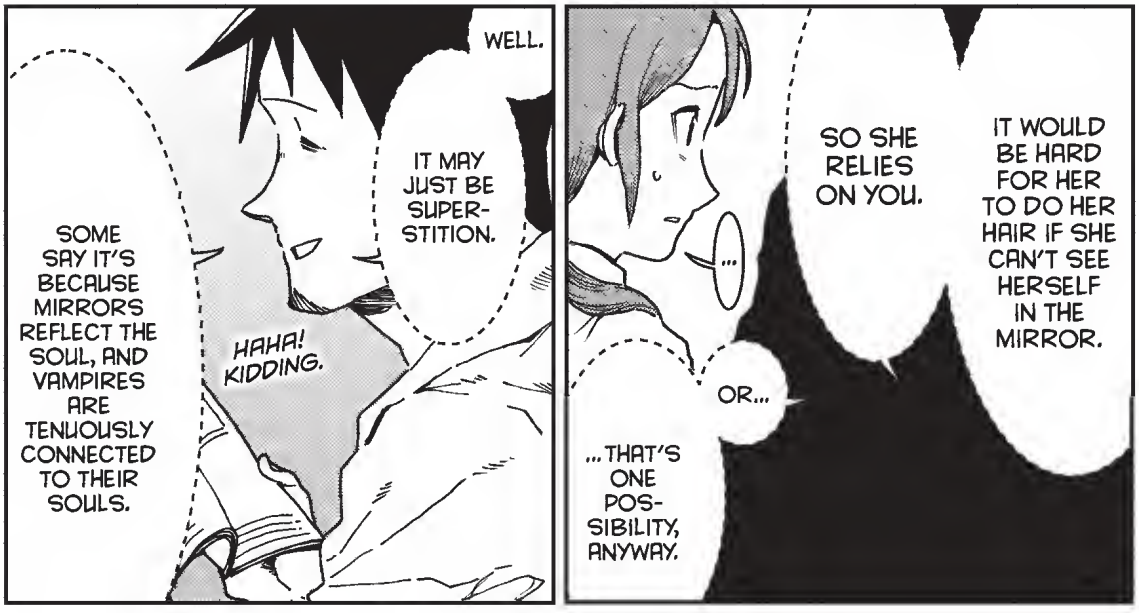


FORGET IT.
READING ROOM
AND...
...HOW I HELPED MY SISTER BECOME A LITTLE MORE INDEPEN-DENT.
THAT'S SOME TOUGH LOVE, HIMARI-CHAN!
...THAT'S ...
I CAN JUST PICTURE HIKARI'S FACE!
SHE'S SUCH A BUM.
SHE'S IN HIGH SCHOOL NOW! IT'S TIME TO GROW UP.

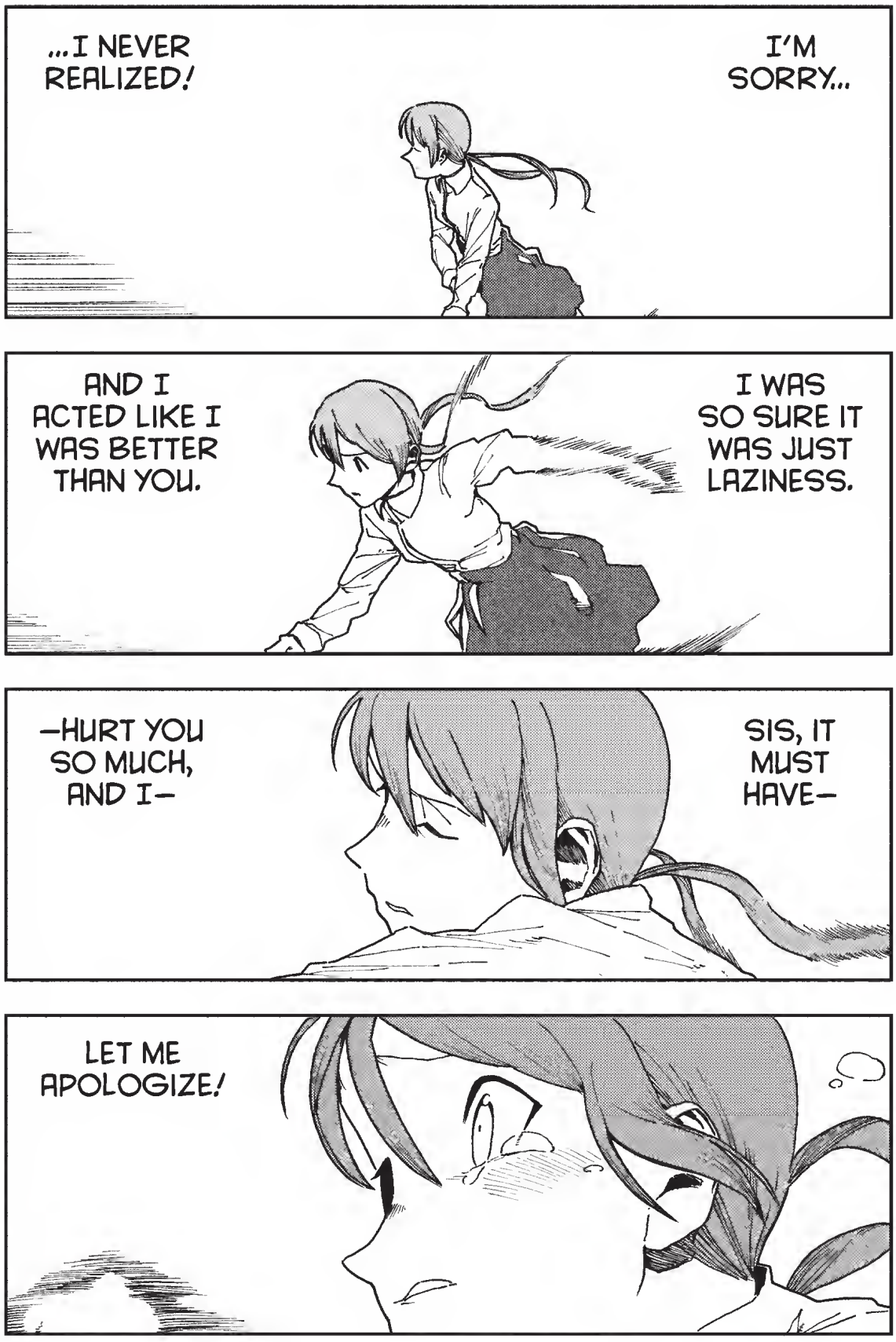

VAMPIRES DON'T NEED LIGHT TO SEE, EVEN IN PITCH BLACKNESS.
EXCELLENT VISION.
SO...
RIGHT. THE BATHROOM LIGHTS ARE TOO BRIGHT FOR HER, SO SHE DOESN'T TURN THEM ON.
BUT ISN'T THAT PARTLY BECAUSE SHE'S A VAMPIRE?
ZZZZ
THE OTHER DAY, SHE FELL ASLEEP ON THE TOILET WHEN SHE GOT UP TO GO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
WOW...
LOOK.
HERE...
I STILL THINK SHE'S PRETTY SLOPPY IN PLENTY OF OTHER WAYS.
HMM...
...WHO WOULDN'T FALL ASLEEP IN THOSE CONDI-TIONS?
WELL...
IN OTHER WORDS...
HUH?
EVEN THE THING WITH HER HAIR MIGHT HAVE TO DO WITH BEING A VAMPIRE.


...
WHA ...?
"VAMPIRES DON'T APPEAR IN MIRRORS."
MIRRORS.
FIG. 17. VAMPI

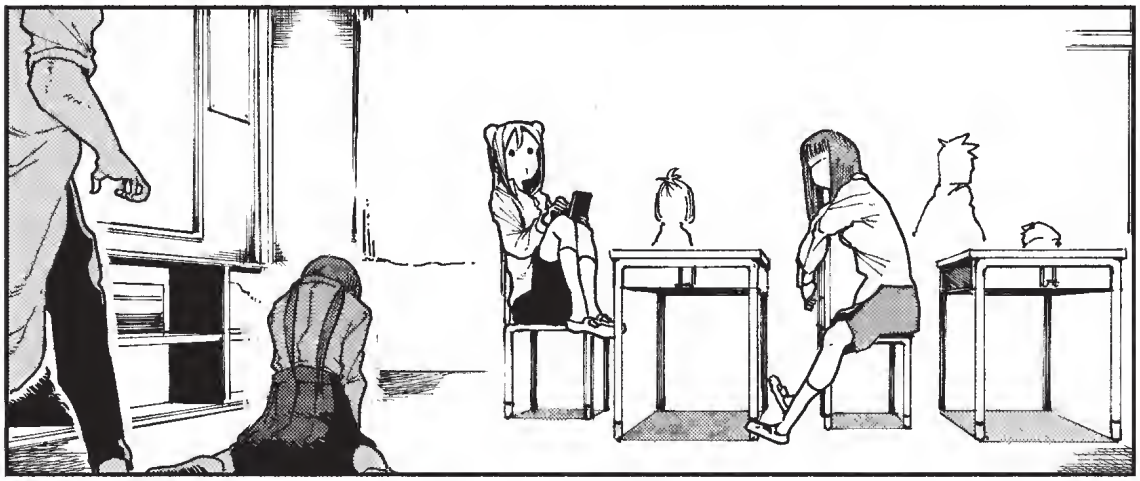

WELL.
IT MAY JUST BE SUPER-STITION.
HAHA! KIDDING.
SOME SAY IT'S BECAUSE MIRRORS REFLECT THE SOUL, AND VAMPIRES ARE TENUOUSLY CONNECTED TO THEIR SOULS.
SO SHE RELIES ON YOU.
IT WOULD BE HARD FOR HER TO DO HER HAIR IF SHE CAN'T SEE HERSELF IN THE MIRROR.
...
OR...
...THAT'S ONE POS-SIBILITY, ANYWAY.

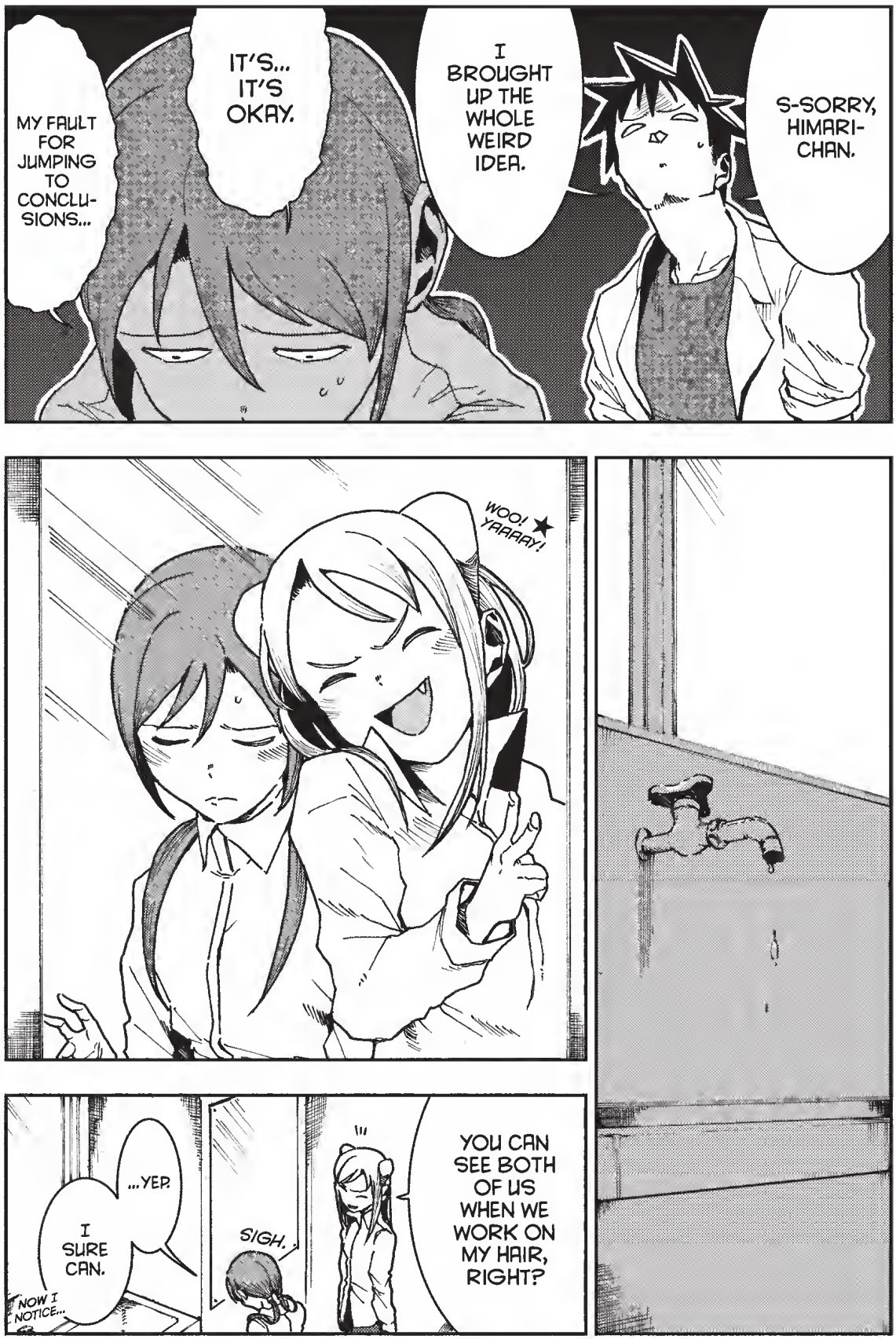
CLATTER
BUT IT MIGHT JUST BE THAT HIKARI IS TOO LAZY TO—
...
...VAMPIRES CAN'T USE MIRRORS...
...IT'S TRUE...
IF...
...
THEN HIKARI...
...MIGHT REALLY HAVE NEEDED MY HELP.
HIMARI-CHAN?
HIMARI!
HELP ME!

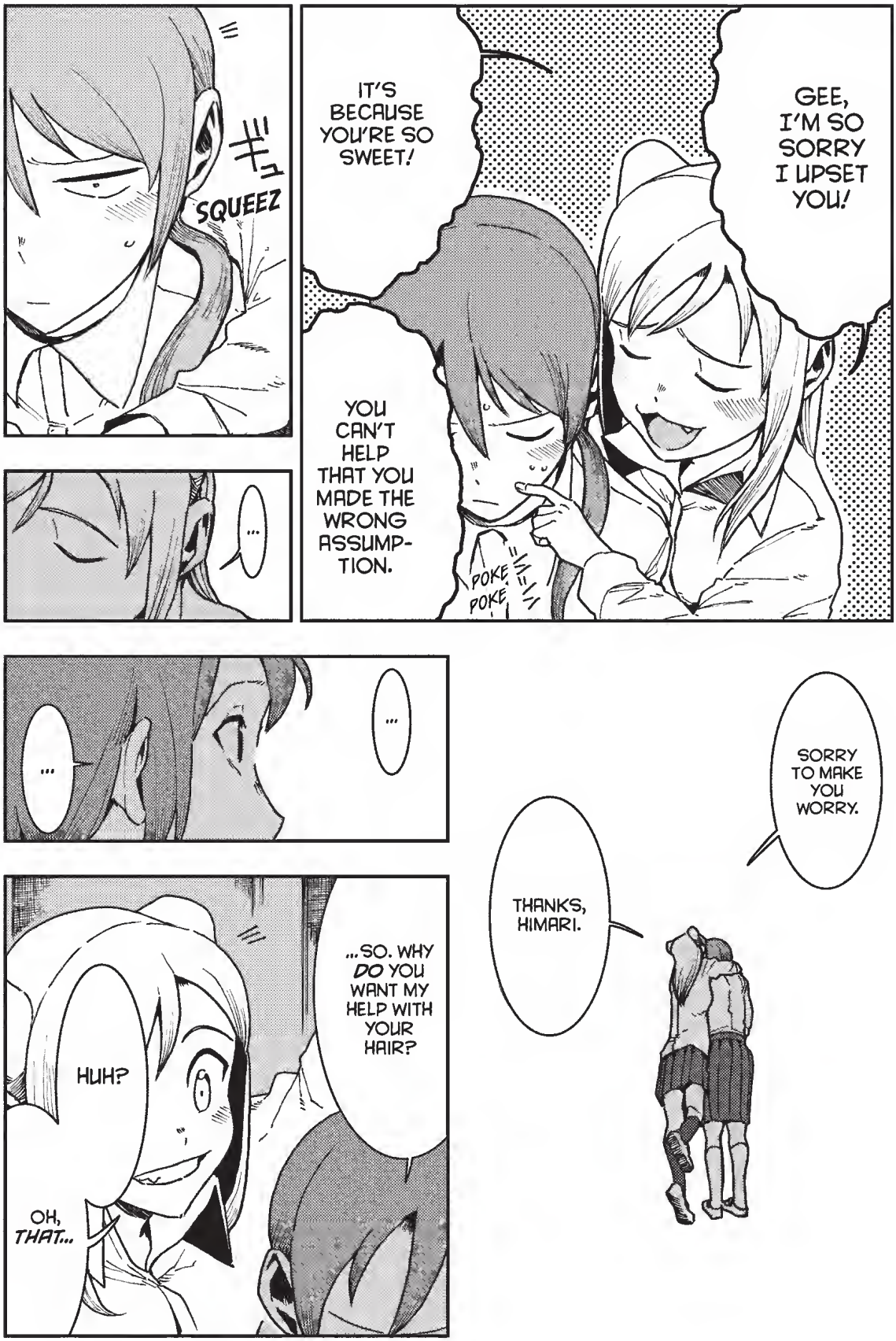
AND...
...ALL I SAID TO HER WAS...
HI—
HIMARI-CHAN?!
SPRINT
?!
I'M SORRY!
BIG SIS!


...I NEVER REALIZED!
I'M SORRY...
AND I ACTED LIKE I WAS BETTER THAN YOU.
I WAS SO SURE IT WAS JUST LAZINESS.
—HURT YOU SO MUCH, AND I—
SIS, IT MUST HAVE—
LET ME APOLOGIZE!

HUH?
MIRRORS?
SURE, I CAN SEE MYSELF IN THEM. WHY?




S-SORRY, HIMARI-CHAN.
I BROUGHT UP THE WHOLE WEIRD IDEA.
IT'S... IT'S OKAY.
MY FAULT FOR JUMPING TO CONCLU-SIONS...
WOO! YAAAAY!
YOU CAN SEE BOTH OF US WHEN WE WORK ON MY HAIR, RIGHT?
SIGH.
...YEP.
I SURE CAN.
NOW I NOTICE...


SQUEEZ
...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO SWEET!
GEE, I'M SO SORRY I UPSET YOU!
YOU CAN'T HELP THAT YOU MADE THE WRONG ASSUMP-TION.
POKE POKE
...
...
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WORRY.
THANKS, HIMARI.
...SO. WHY *DO* YOU WANT MY HELP WITH YOUR HAIR?
HUH?
OH, *THAT...*

I'M JUST LAZY! ALWAYS HAVE BEEN!
...
ギギギギ
PUUUULL
...VAMPIRES REALLY DIDN'T HAVE REFLECTIONS...
EVEN IF...
...I'M SURE HIKARI STILL WOULDN'T LOSE HERSELF.
BECAUSE HIMARI WOULD ALWAYS BE THERE, TO UNDER-STAND AND CARE FOR HER.
FWIP
TUG!
OW OW OW OW OW OW!
MY BRAIN HURTS!
TUG
TUG
TUG

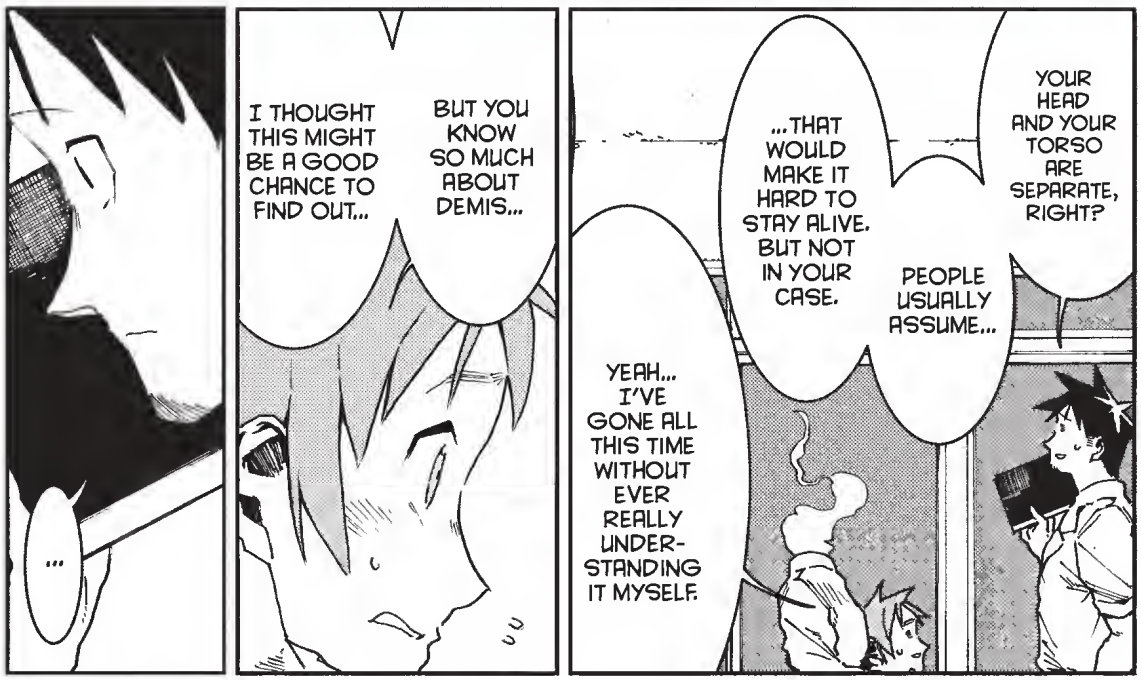
SHE'S THE MIRROR IMAGE OF HER SISTER.

WHA-AAT?
IF YOU QUIT DOING YOUR HAIR THAT WAY, MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING LATE TO SCHOOL.
GRRR!
NOT MY POINT!
IF YOU STARTED DOING YOUR HAIR LIKE THIS, YOU WOULD BE LATE, TOO!
THE NEXT DAY
...
UH-HUH...
HIMARI HAIR
AND WITH TIME TO SPARE! YOU'RE SOME-THING, HIMARI!
THIS IS 800% MORE EMBAR-RASSING THAN BEING TARDY...

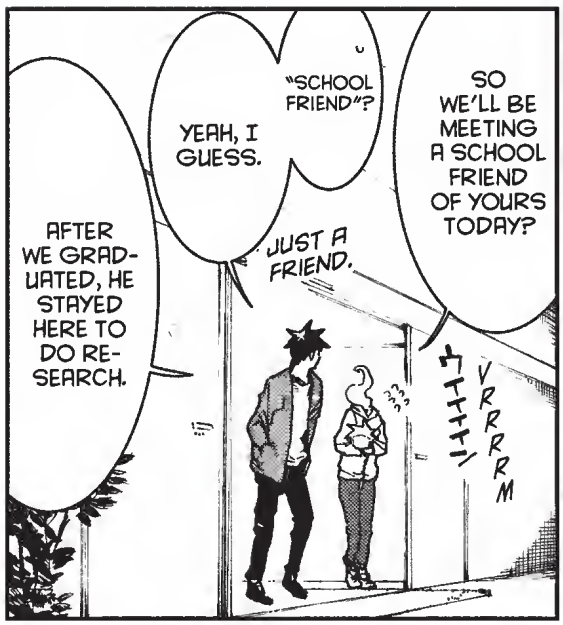
INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

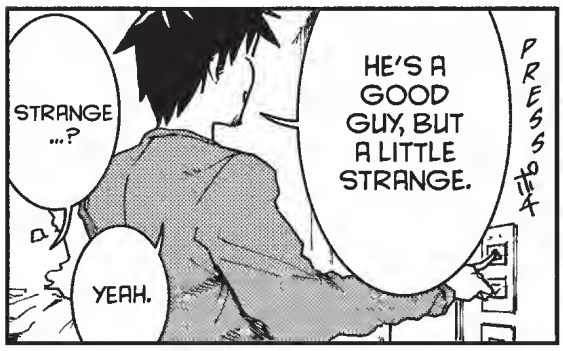
TAKAHASHI-SENSEI...
DO YOU WANT TO...
...KNOW ABOUT MY BODY?

SURE.
DEFINITELY.
SEE...

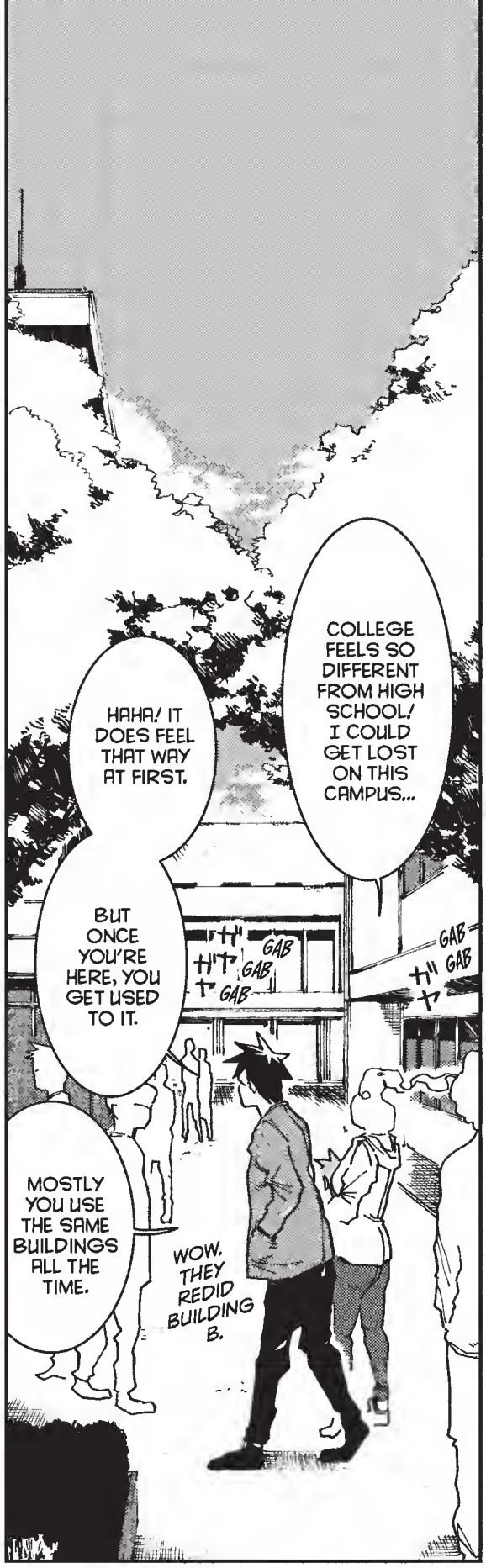

...
I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD CHANCE TO FIND OUT...
BUT YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT DEMIS...
YOUR HEAD AND YOUR TORSO ARE SEPARATE, RIGHT?
...THAT WOULD MAKE IT HARD TO STAY ALIVE. BUT NOT IN YOUR CASE.
PEOPLE USUALLY ASSUME...
YEAH... I'VE GONE ALL THIS TIME WITHOUT EVER REALLY UNDER-STANDING IT MYSELF.

MY MAJOR WAS BIOLOGY.
AND MY OBSER-VATIONS ARE BASED ON THAT.
SO...
HUH?
...HOW ABOUT ANOTHER OPINION?
MUSASHINO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
...WHY NOT ASK SOMEONE WHO'S COMING FROM A DIFFERENT PLACE?
THIS WAS YOUR SCHOOL, SENSEI?
MM.
SURE WAS.
GAB GAB

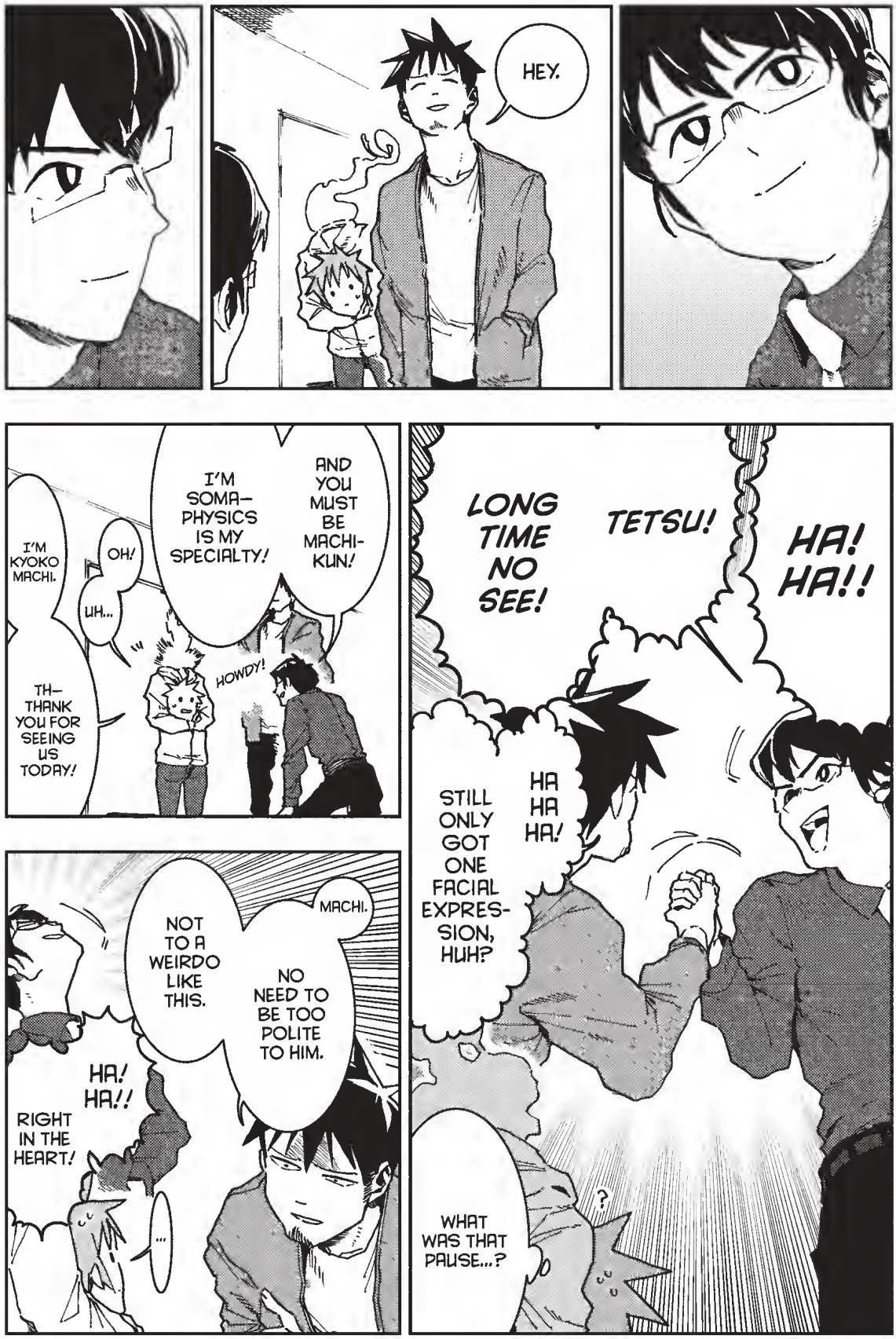

SO WE'LL BE MEETING A SCHOOL FRIEND OF YOURS TODAY?
"SCHOOL FRIEND"?
YEAH, I GUESS.
JUST A FRIEND.
AFTER WE GRADUATED, HE STAYED HERE TO DO RESEARCH.
ウィィィン
VRRRRM


HE'S A GOOD GUY, BUT A LITTLE STRANGE.
PRESS
STRANGE ...?
YEAH.

I GUESS GENIUSES USUALLY ARE.


COLLEGE FEELS SO DIFFERENT FROM HIGH SCHOOL! I COULD GET LOST ON THIS CAMPUS...
HAHA! IT DOES FEEL THAT WAY AT FIRST.
BUT ONCE YOU'RE HERE, YOU GET USED TO IT.
MOSTLY YOU USE THE SAME BUILDINGS ALL THE TIME.
WOW. THEY REDID BUILDING B.
GAB
GAB
GAB
GAB
GAB

SOMA
ASST. PROFESSOR,
MUSASHINO UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE
SOMA.
///
...
...
...

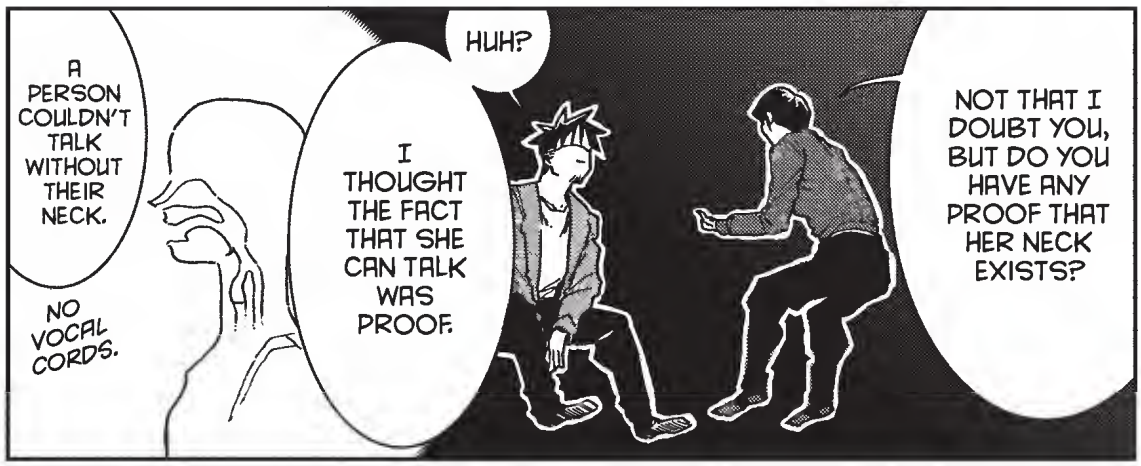

HEY.
LONG TIME NO SEE!
TETSU!
HA! HA!!
HA HA HA!
STILL ONLY GOT ONE FACIAL EXPRESSION, HUH?
WHAT WAS THAT PAUSE...?
?
AND YOU MUST BE MACHI-KUN!
I'M SOMA— PHYSICS IS MY SPECIALTY!
I'M KYOKO MACHI.
OH!
UH...
HOWDY!
TH— THANK YOU FOR SEEING US TODAY!
MACHI.
NOT TO A WEIRDO LIKE THIS.
NO NEED TO BE TOO POLITE TO HIM.
HA! HA!!
RIGHT IN THE HEART!
...

HMM...
A STORY?
...DULLAHANS ARE LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A STORY!
TO US LOVERS OF PHYSICS...
GOOD-NESS!
BUT IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET A REAL DULLAHAN!
OH... TH-THANK YOU...
A MANJU...?
SAY YOU ATE A *MANJU*, MACHI-KUN.
UH-HUH!

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE LIVING PROOF THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO TRANSPORT MATTER ACROSS SPACE AND TIME!!
OOOH!
CLAP CLAP
THINK OF WHEN YOU PUT IT IN YOUR MOUTH...
...AND SWALLOW IT!
AT THAT INSTANT, IT'S TRANS-PORTED OVER TO YOUR BODY!
YOUR HEAD AND BODY...
A WORM-HOLE...?
...ARE CONNECTED BY A HIGH-DIMENSIONAL TUNNEL.
THAT IS, A WORMHOLE!
YOU MEAN...
...LIKE SPACESHIPS USE WHEN THEY GO INTO WARP DRIVE IN MOVIES?
THAT WEIRD DIMEN-SION?
RUUUU-UUUUMBLE
EXACTLY! IN SCIENCE FICTION, IT'S SOME-TIMES CALLED SUBSPACE OR HYPER-SPACE.

WHAT HAPPENS INSIDE AN ACTUAL WORM-HOLE?
IS IT LIKE THE SCIENCE FICTION ONES?
WHO KNOWS?
HIGH-DIMENSIONAL SPACE WORKS DIFFERENTLY FROM OUR OWN SPACE-TIME.
WE JUST CAN'T SAY.
RUUUUMBLE...
...
HMM...
BUT THIS WORM-HOLE THAT CONNECTS MACHI-KUN'S HEAD AND BODY...
...SEEMS TO BE A VERY STURDY ONE!
SCREEEEE
HER NERVES AND BLOOD VESSELS ALL SEEM TO BE CONNECTED THROUGH IT.
AND HER NECK PER-FORMS ALL ITS EXPECTED FUNCTIONS!
ITS... FUNC-TIONS...
UH-HUH...
?
I GUESS SO...
MEAN-ING ...?
MACHI'S— YOU KNOW.
NECK.
THE PART YOU'RE SAYING IS A WORM-HOLE.

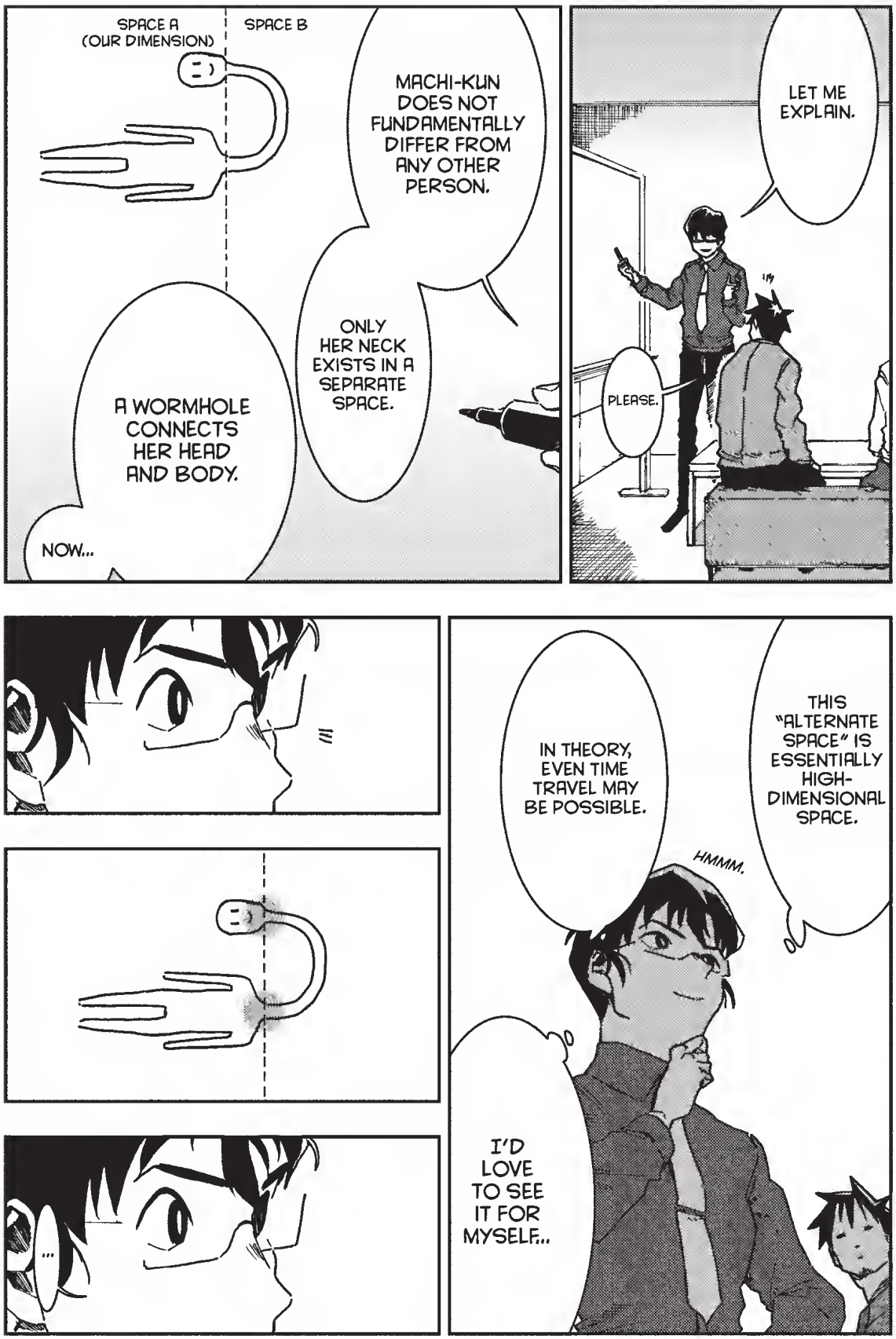
!!
IT REALLY EXISTS.
IN BE-TWEEN...
...HER HEAD AND BODY.
UM...
WHERE?
...
HMM...
OR THE NECK ITSELF IS THE WORM-HOLE?
I'M NOT SURE. MAYBE HER NECK IS BY ITSELF? IN SOME ALTERNATE SPACE?


NOT THAT I DOUBT YOU, BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF THAT HER NECK EXISTS?
HUH?
I THOUGHT THE FACT THAT SHE CAN TALK WAS PROOF.
A PERSON COULDN'T TALK WITHOUT THEIR NECK.
NO VOCAL CORDS.

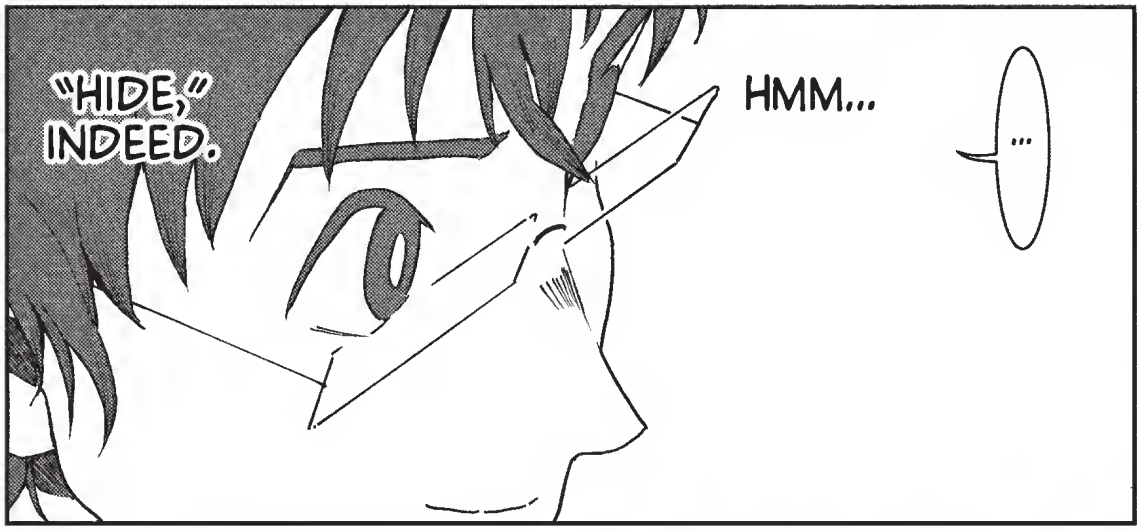
TO THE EXTENT IT CAN BE OBSERVED WITH AN ENDO-SCOPE...
...YOU HAVE A NORMAL HUMAN NECK.
RIGHT!
THE DOCTOR SAID THE SAME THING.

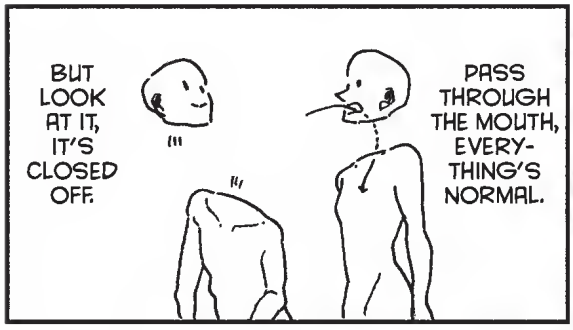
THAT'S A PRETTY SHORT WORM-HOLE.
HA!
CLATTER
HA!
IF ANY-THING, IT MAY MEAN HER WORMHOLE IS UNDER EXTREMELY TIGHT CONTROL!

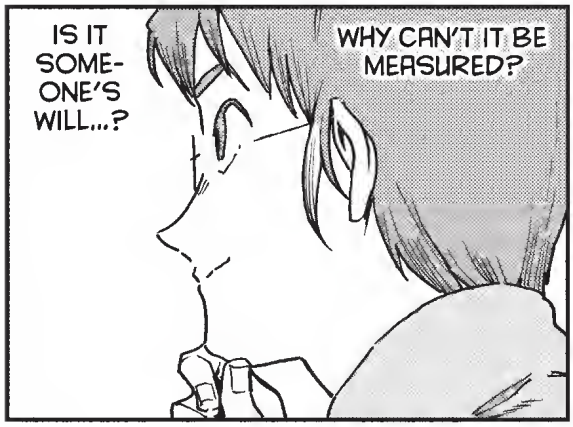
AND I TRIED ASKING HER—
SHE'D KNOW BETTER THAN ANY-ONE.
—IF SHE HAS A NECK.
THEY DID AN ENDOSCOPY ON ME ONCE AND MY NECK WAS DEFINITELY THERE...
OH HO!
SO YOU *DO* HAVE A NECK!

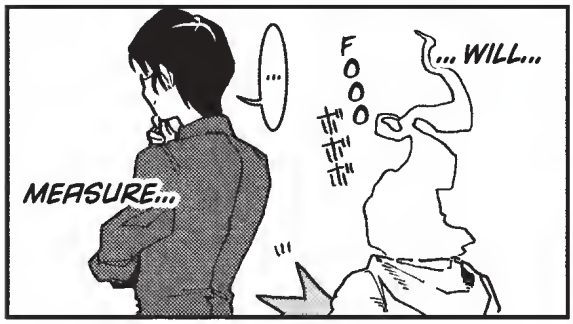

SPACE A
(OUR DIMENSION)
SPACE B
NOW...
A WORMHOLE CONNECTS HER HEAD AND BODY.
ONLY HER NECK EXISTS IN A SEPARATE SPACE.
MACHI-KUN DOES NOT FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFER FROM ANY OTHER PERSON.
LET ME EXPLAIN.
PLEASE.
!!!
...
THIS "ALTERNATE SPACE" IS ESSENTIALLY HIGH-DIMENSIONAL SPACE.
HMMM.
IN THEORY, EVEN TIME TRAVEL MAY BE POSSIBLE.
I'D LOVE TO SEE IT FOR MYSELF...

THEY'RE COVERED IN SKIN.
OH...
IF I MAY ASK...
AHEM.
?
?
WHAT ABOUT THE PLACES WHERE YOUR HEAD AND BODY WOULD NORMALLY CONNECT?
HER MOUTH DOES LEAD TO HER BODY...
...BUT FROM THE OUTSIDE, IT LOOKS BLOCKED.
STRANGE, HUH?
SKIN!
...
HIKARI?
NOW, WHO'D PLAY A JOKE LIKE THAT?
HAHA!
OH!
MAYBE SOMEONE IS TRYING TO HIDE THE PATH?


"HIDE," INDEED.
HMM...
...

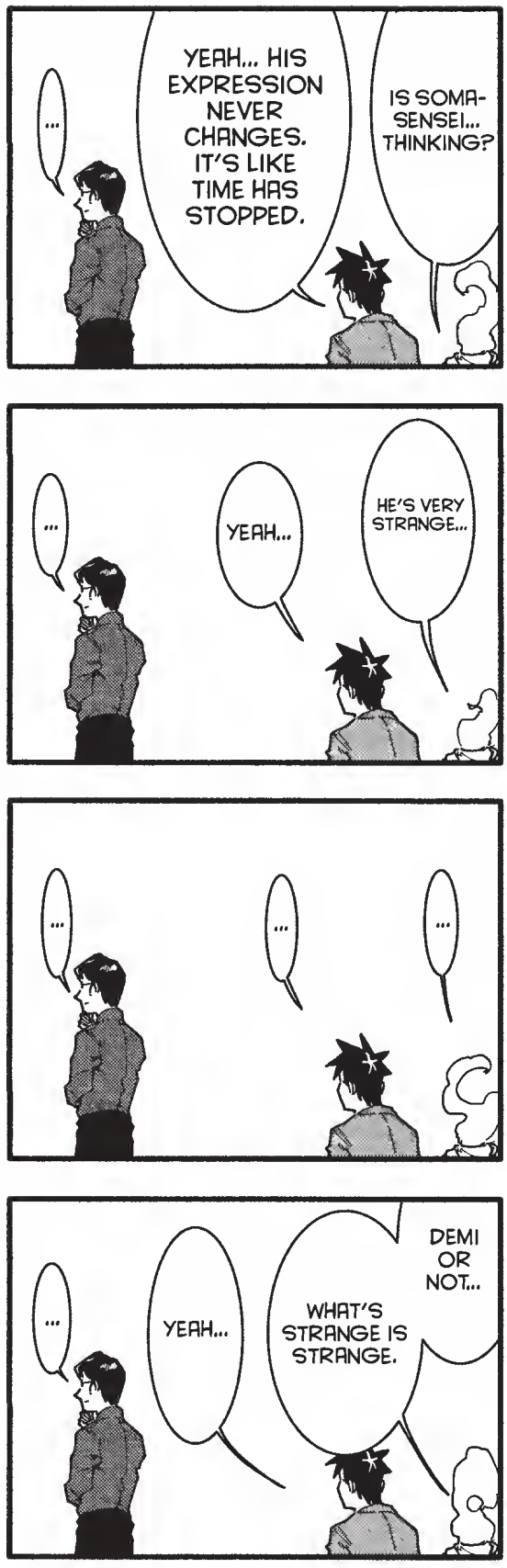

BUT LOOK AT IT, IT'S CLOSED OFF.
PASS THROUGH THE MOUTH, EVERY-THING'S NORMAL.


IS IT SOME-ONE'S WILL...?
WHY CAN'T IT BE MEASURED?


MEASURE...
...
FOOO
... WILL...

HIGH-DIMENSIONAL SPACE EXISTS...
...BUT.
IT'S SO HARD TO MEASURE, IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE IT'S BEING CONCEALED.

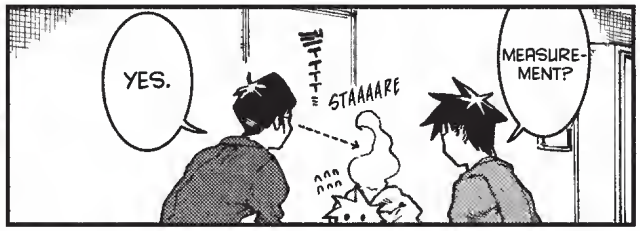
HMMMMM
...
HEH HEH HEH HEH
...?
SOMA-SENSEI?
MACHI!
SSHHH!
HEH HEH HEH HEH

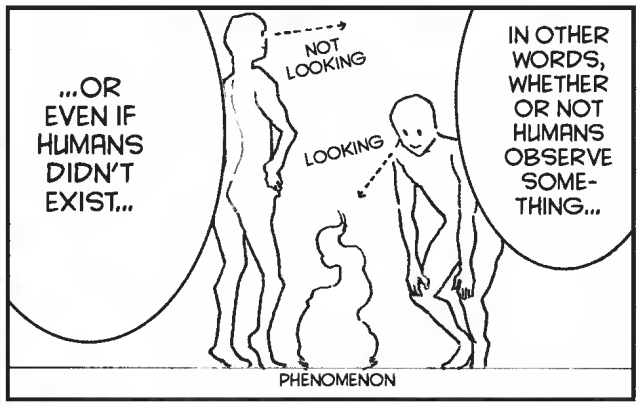

...
YEAH... HIS EXPRESSION NEVER CHANGES. IT'S LIKE TIME HAS STOPPED.
IS SOMA-SENSEI... THINKING?
...
YEAH...
HE'S VERY STRANGE...
...
...
...
...
YEAH...
WHAT'S STRANGE IS STRANGE.
DEMI OR NOT...

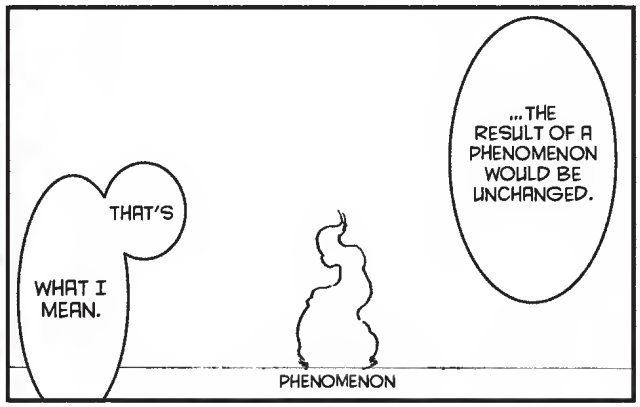
INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

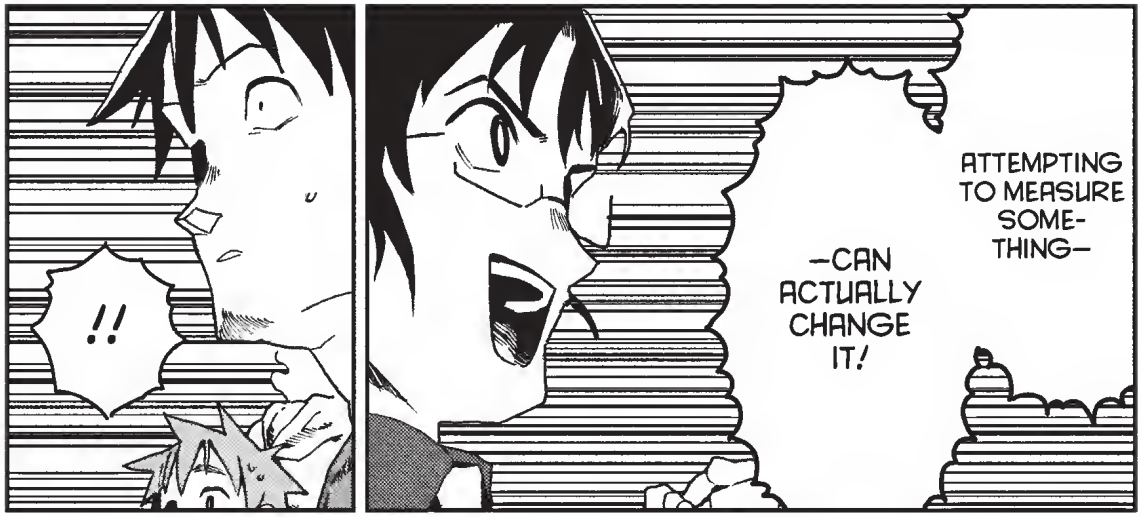
...USED TO BELIEVE THAT MEASUREMENT HAD NO EFFECT ON PHENOMENA.
PHYSICISTS...
ALL PHENOMENA HAVE A SOURCE.
ボボボボ FOOOOO

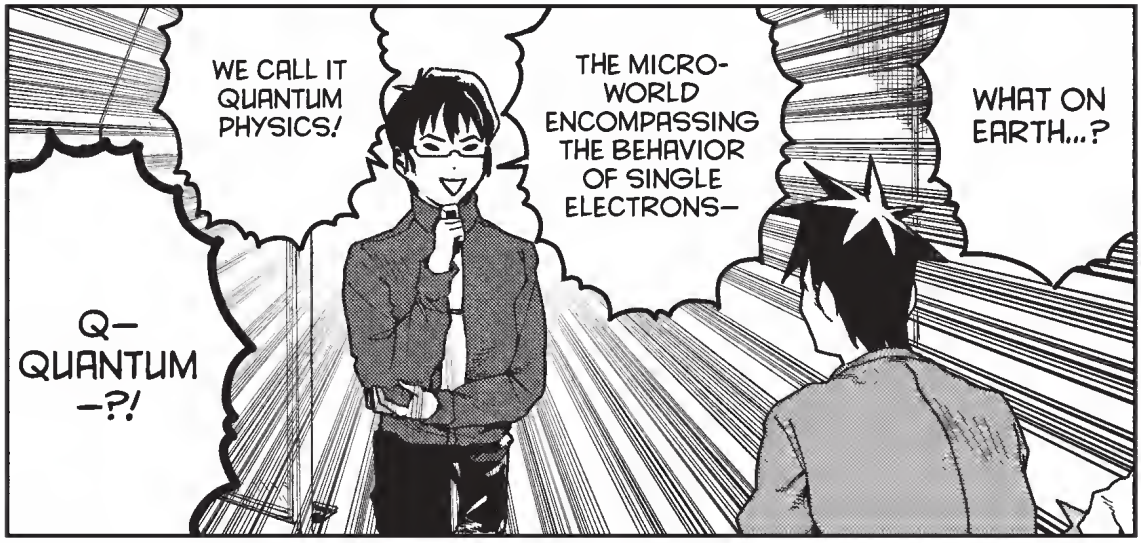
HMM.
THAT SEEMS LIKE COMMON SENSE...
TRUE!
BUT IN FACT!

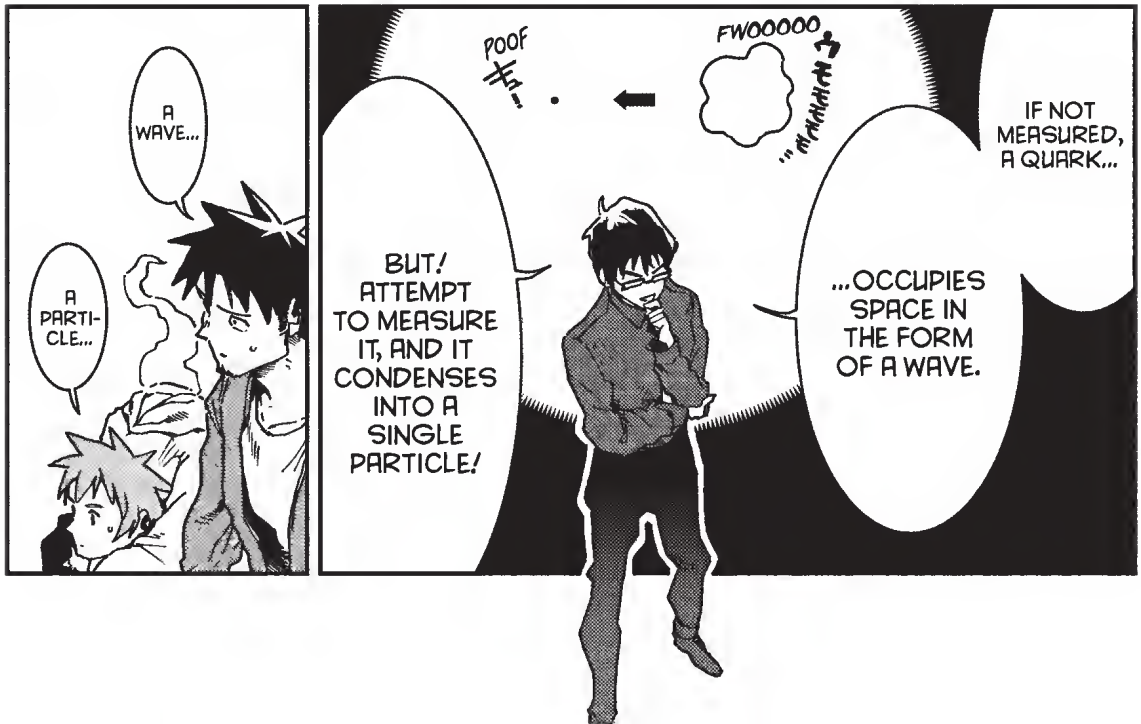

YES.
STAAAARE
MEASURE-MENT?


...OR EVEN IF HUMANS DIDN'T EXIST...
NOT LOOKING
LOOKING
IN OTHER WORDS, WHETHER OR NOT HUMANS OBSERVE SOME-THING...
PHENOMENON


...THE RESULT OF A PHENOMENON WOULD BE UNCHANGED.
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN.
PHENOMENON

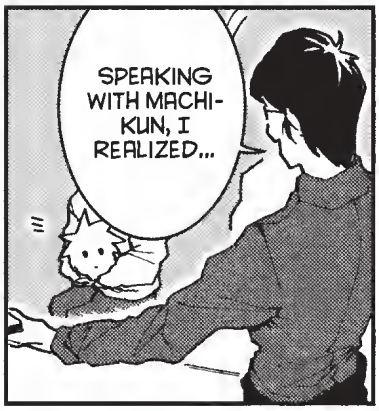

!!
ATTEMPTING TO MEASURE SOME-THING—
—CAN ACTUALLY CHANGE IT!


WE CALL IT QUANTUM PHYSICS!
THE MICRO-WORLD ENCOMPASSING THE BEHAVIOR OF SINGLE ELECTRONS—
WHAT ON EARTH...?
Q—QUANTUM—?!

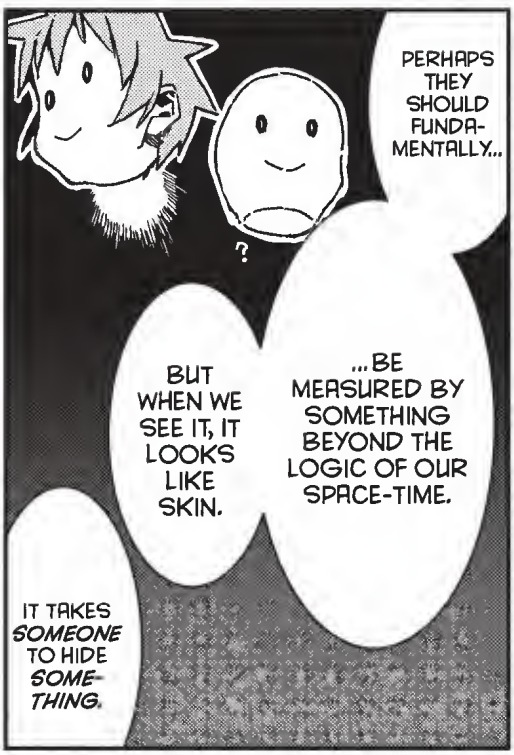

A WAVE...
A PARTI-CLE...
POOF
FWOOOOO
IF NOT MEASURED, A QUARK...
...OCCUPIES SPACE IN THE FORM OF A WAVE.
BUT! ATTEMPT TO MEASURE IT, AND IT CONDENSES INTO A SINGLE PARTICLE!

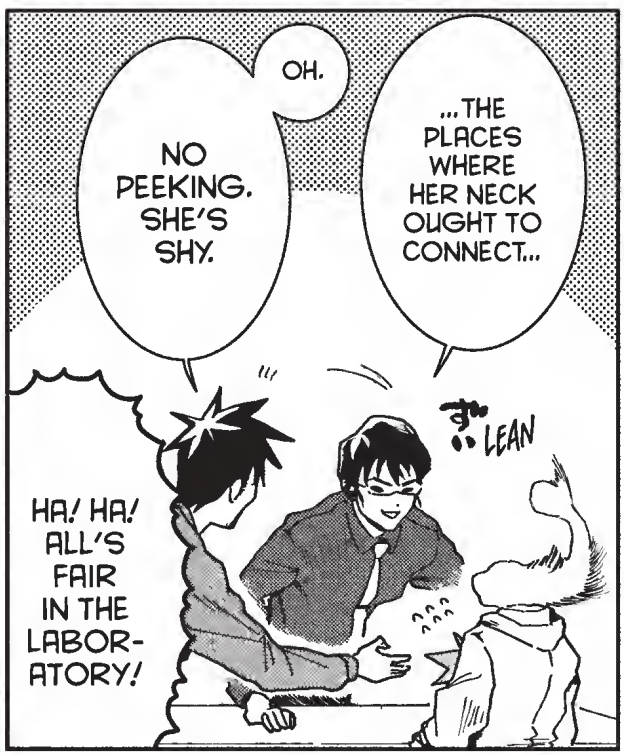
FINE REACTIONS! BUT LET US LEAVE THEM ASIDE FOR NOW.
HA! HA!!
IS... IS THAT RIGHT...?
DON'T GET IT.
HMMM....
DOESN'T IT SHOW YOU HOW CRUCIAL PEOPLE ARE TO THIS UNIVERSE?!
...THE FACT OF A PERSON OBSERVING CAN CHANGE A PHENOMENON'S RESULT!
TO PUT IT IN TERMS OF PHENOM-ENA...
YEAH!
PHENOMENON
THAT'S NEAT!
THE POINT IS!
THE ACT OF OBSERVATION SEEMS TO BE A SIGNIFICANT ONE.
THAT'S ALL I'M SAYING.
AND HUMAN INTENTIONS ARE BEHIND THOSE ACTIONS!
MEAN-ING!
AND WHAT IS OBSER-VATION?
IT'S AN ACTION!

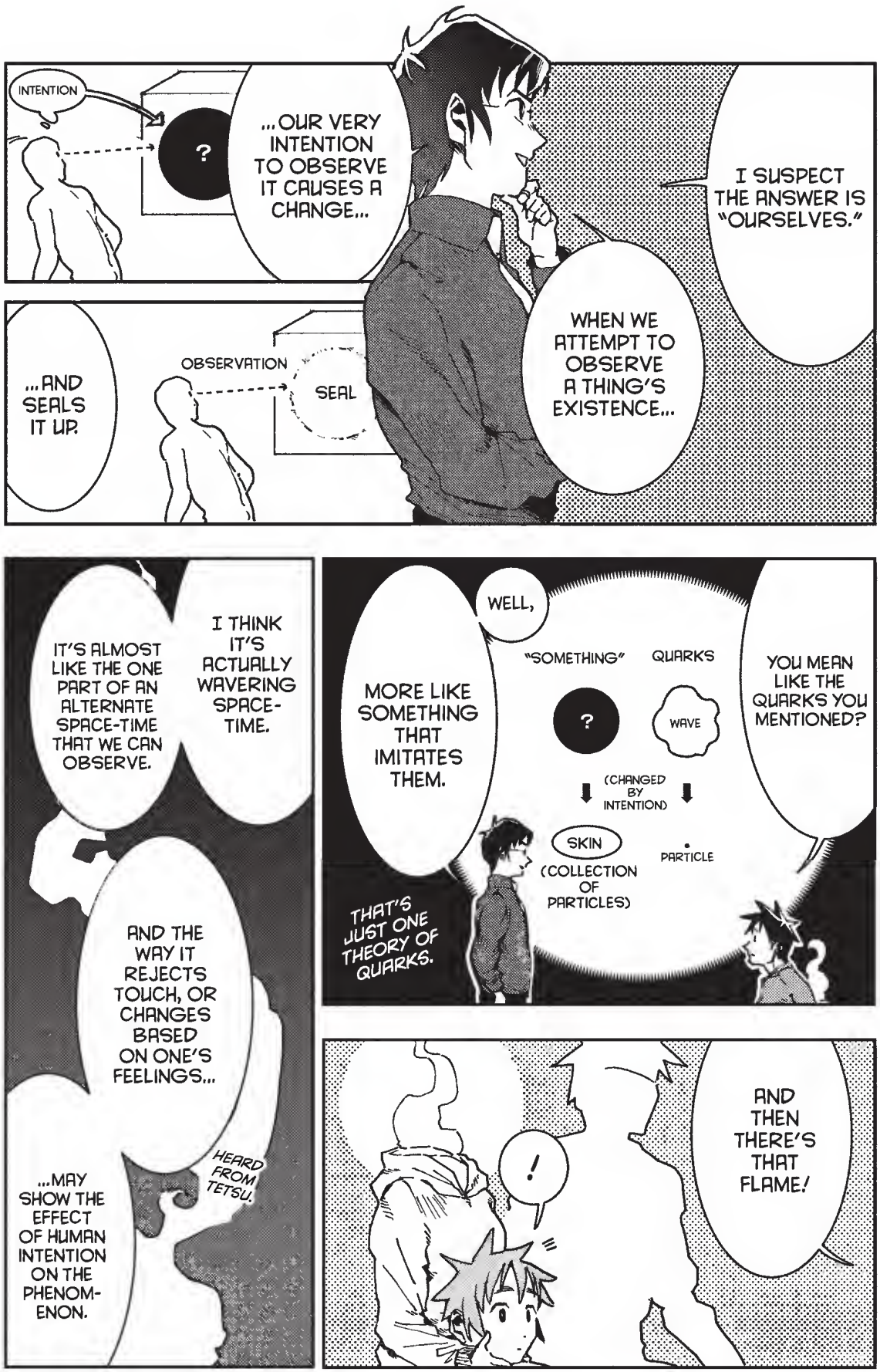
THAT'S–
–THE REAL TRUTH!
OOOOH!
LIKE ESP!

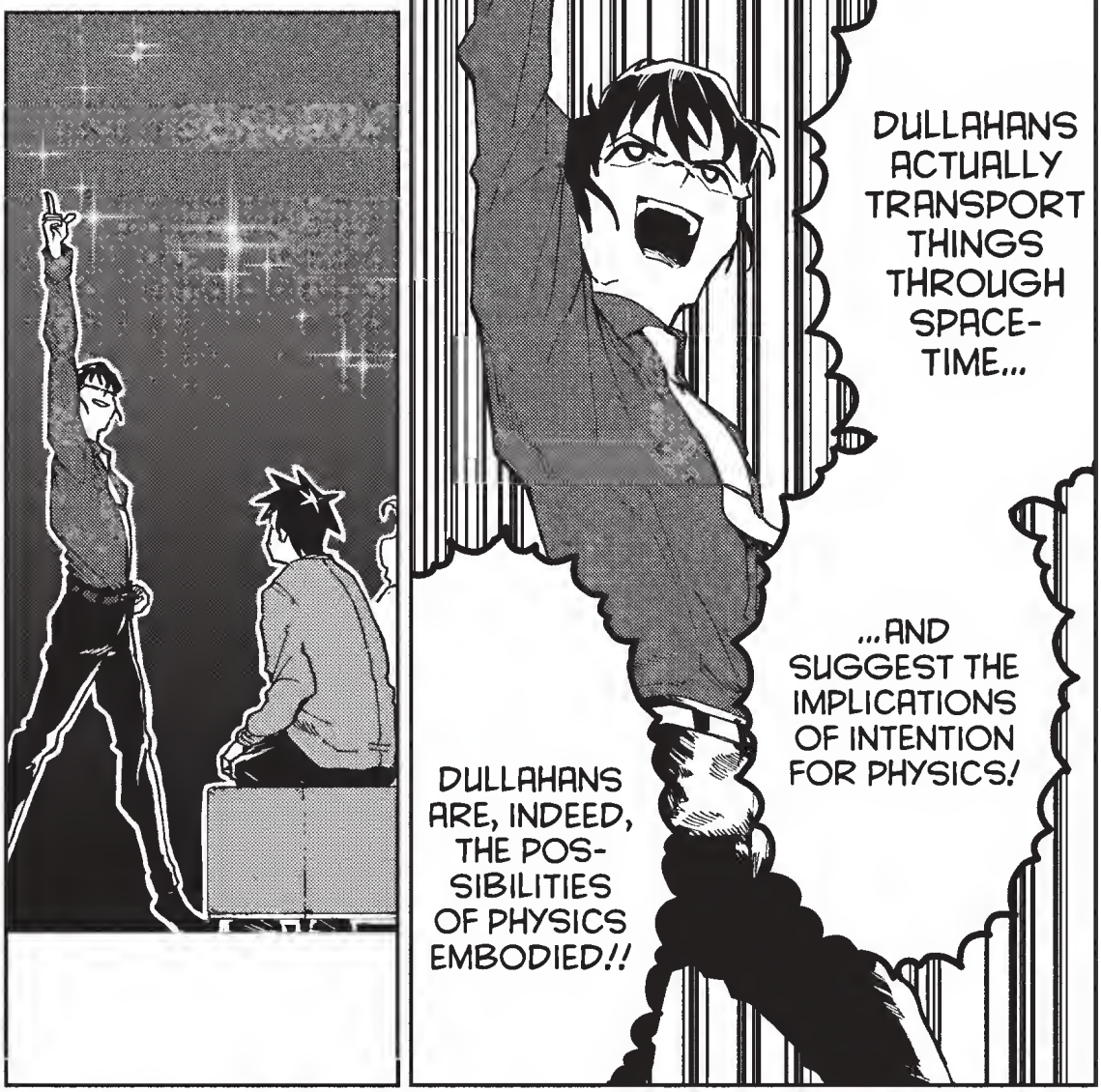

SPEAKING WITH MACHI-KUN, I REALIZED...

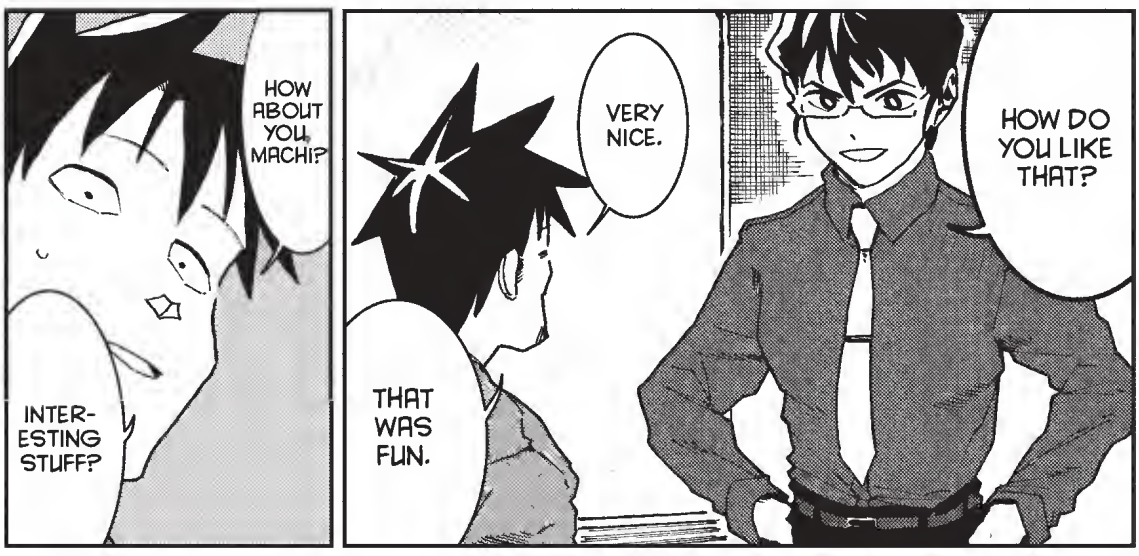
HUMAN INTENTIONS CAN INFLUENCE PHENOMENA!!
INTENTION
OBSERVATION
PHENOMENON


PERHAPS THEY SHOULD FUNDA-MENTALLY...
?
...BE MEASURED BY SOMETHING BEYOND THE LOGIC OF OUR SPACE-TIME.
BUT WHEN WE SEE IT, IT LOOKS LIKE SKIN.
IT TAKES SOMEONE TO HIDE SOME-THING.


OH.
NO PEEKING. SHE'S SHY.
...THE PLACES WHERE HER NECK OUGHT TO CONNECT...
LEAN
HA! HA! ALL'S FAIR IN THE LABOR-ATORY!

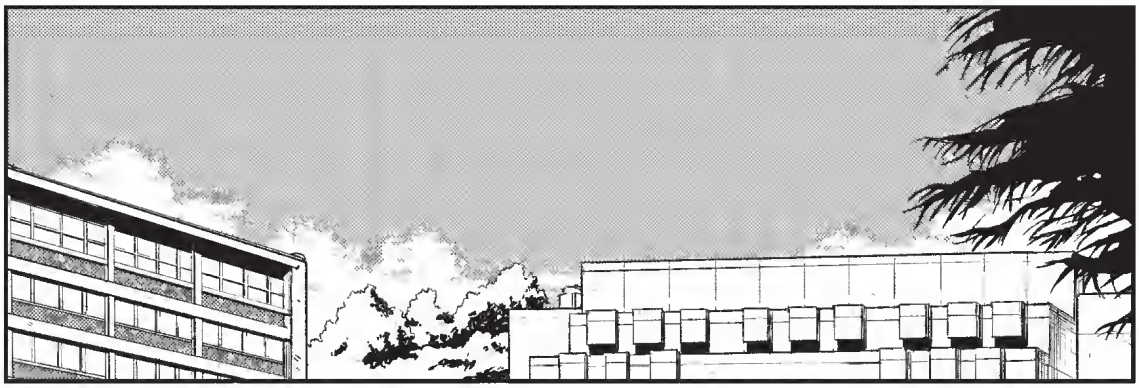

INTENTION
?
...OUR VERY INTENTION TO OBSERVE IT CAUSES A CHANGE...
I SUSPECT THE ANSWER IS "OURSELVES."
WHEN WE ATTEMPT TO OBSERVE A THING'S EXISTENCE...
OBSERVATION
SEAL
...AND SEALS IT UP.
I THINK IT'S ACTUALLY WAVERING SPACE-TIME.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE THE ONE PART OF AN ALTERNATE SPACE-TIME THAT WE CAN OBSERVE.
AND THE WAY IT REJECTS TOUCH, OR CHANGES BASED ON ONE'S FEELINGS...
...MAY SHOW THE EFFECT OF HUMAN INTENTION ON THE PHENOM-ENON.
HEARD FROM TETSU.
WELL,
MORE LIKE SOMETHING THAT IMITATES THEM.
"SOMETHING"
QUARKS
?
WAVE
(CHANGED BY INTENTION)
SKIN
(COLLECTION OF PARTICLES)
PARTICLE
YOU MEAN LIKE THE QUARKS YOU MENTIONED?
THAT'S JUST ONE THEORY OF QUARKS.
!
AND THEN THERE'S THAT FLAME!

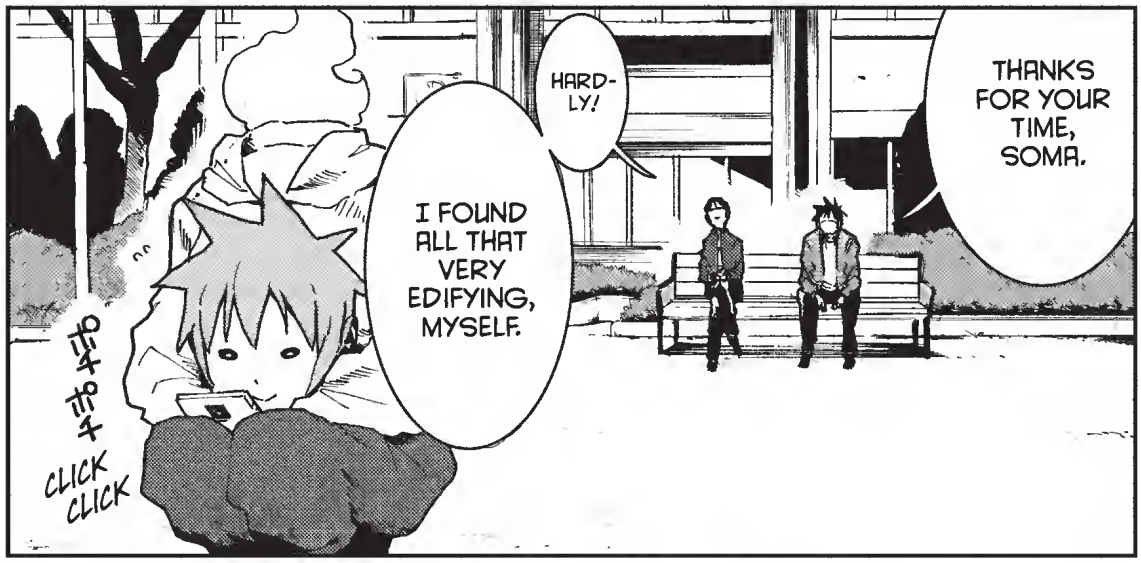

DULLAHANS ACTUALLY TRANSPORT THINGS THROUGH SPACE-TIME...
...AND SUGGEST THE IMPLICATIONS OF INTENTION FOR PHYSICS!
DULLAHANS ARE, INDEED, THE POS-SIBILITIES OF PHYSICS EMBODIED!!


HOW ABOUT YOU, MACHI?
INTER-ESTING STUFF?
VERY NICE.
THAT WAS FUN.
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?

...
WOW...
YEAH... MIND-BLOWING...

HA HA!
GREAT.

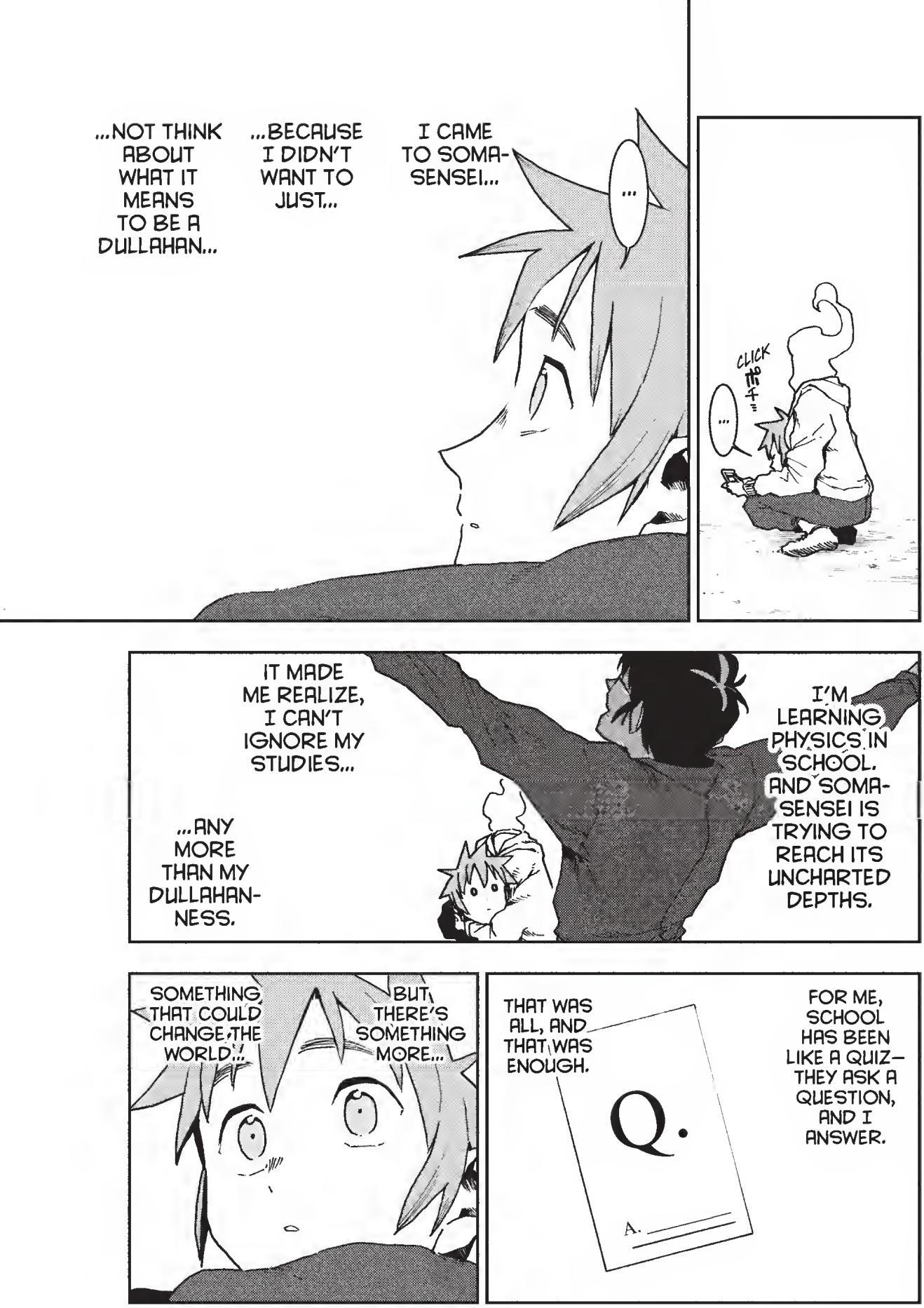


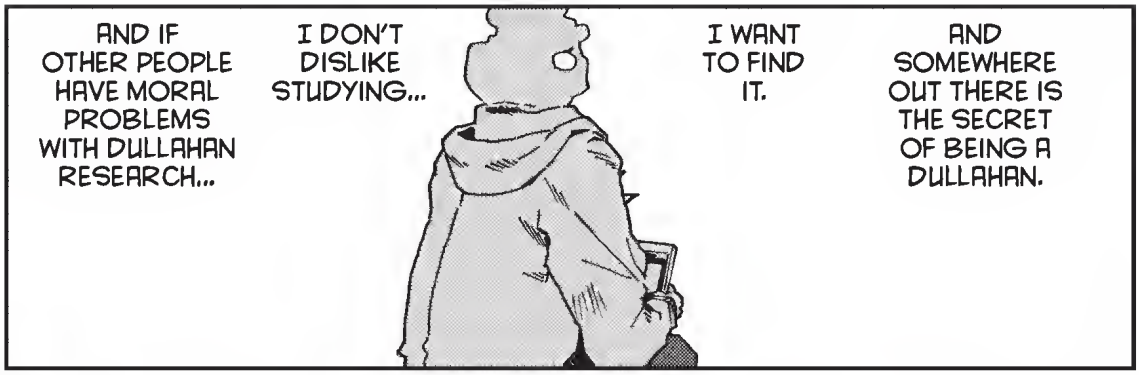

CLICK CLICK
I FOUND ALL THAT VERY EDIFYING, MYSELF.
HARD-LY!
THANKS FOR YOUR TIME, SOMA.

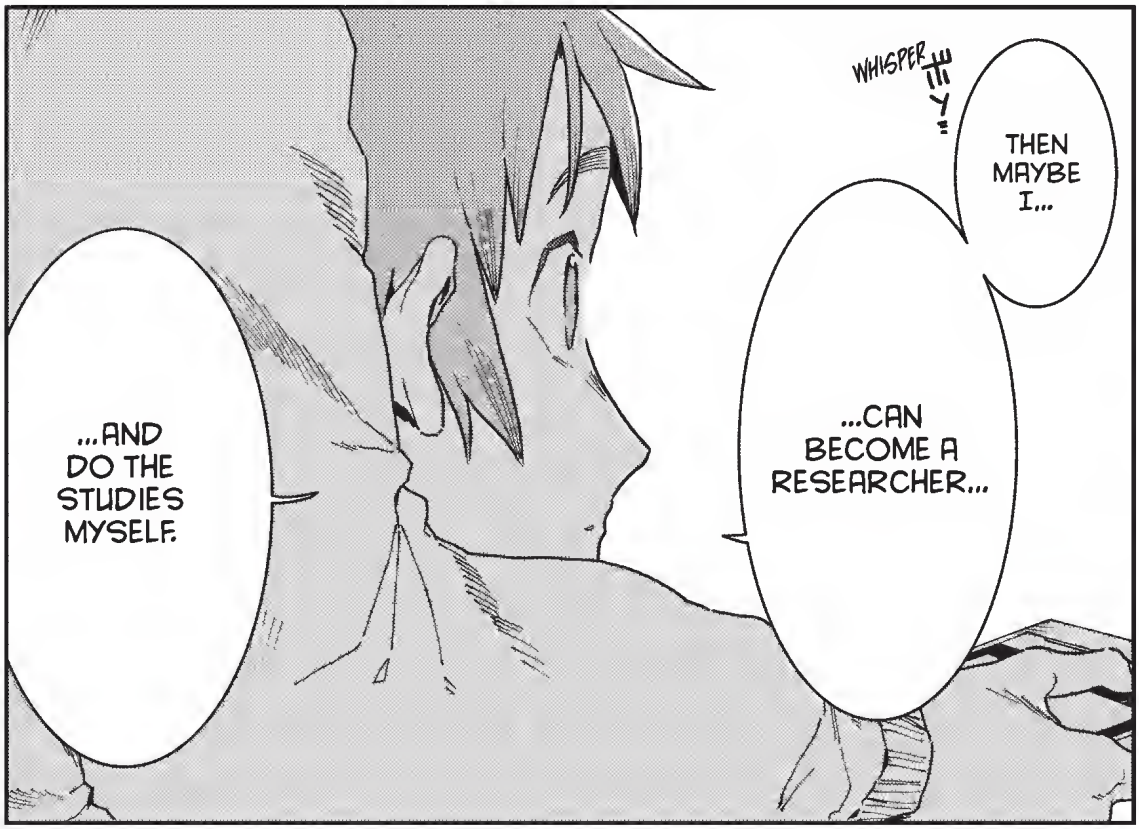
IF THE DEMI'S OKAY WITH IT, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
HMPH.
ALL THESE ARGU-MENTS.
HA! HA. I REMEMBER THIS FROM YOUR STUDENT DAYS.
WELL, I'M GLAD WE LIVE IN A WORLD THAT'S AT LEAST A LITTLE PRO-TECTIVE.

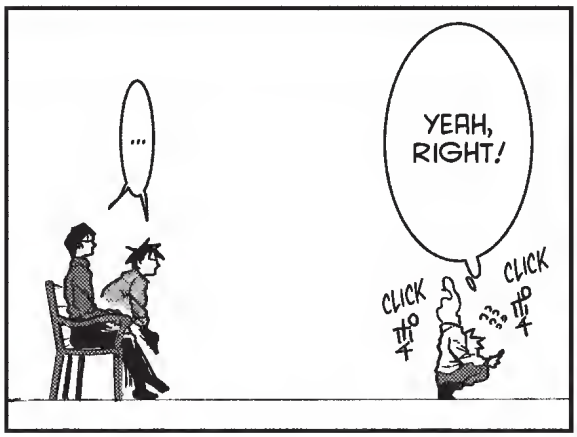
...AREN'T YOU CURIOUS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON WITH MACHI?

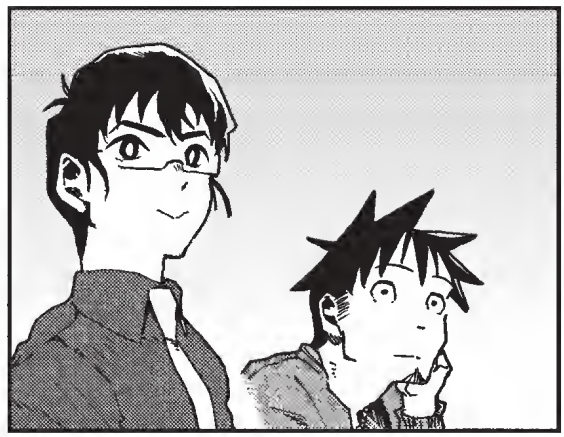
BUT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE...
...KNOW THE DIF-FICULTIES OF STUDY-ING DEMIS.
WELL...
...CER-TAINLY.


...NOT THINK ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DULLAHAN...
...BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO JUST...
I CAME TO SOMA-SENSEI...
...
CLICK
...
IT MADE ME REALIZE, I CAN'T IGNORE MY STUDIES...
...ANY MORE THAN MY DULLAHAN-NESS.
I'M LEARNING PHYSICS IN SCHOOL. AND SOMA-SENSEI IS TRYING TO REACH ITS UNCHARTED DEPTHS.
SOMETHING THAT COULD CHANGE THE WORLD...
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING MORE...
THAT WAS ALL, AND THAT WAS ENOUGH.
Q.
A.
FOR ME, SCHOOL HAS BEEN LIKE A QUIZ— THEY ASK A QUESTION, AND I ANSWER.

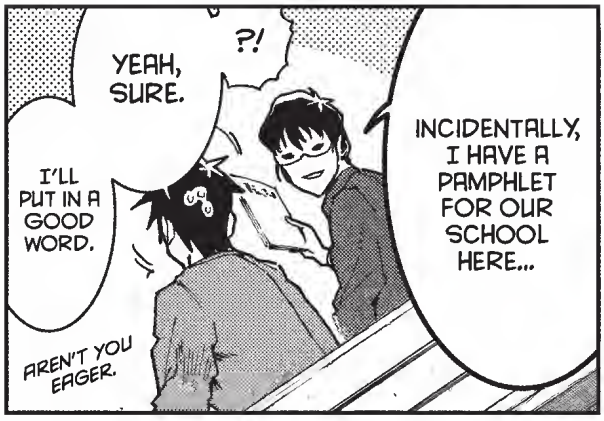

AND IF OTHER PEOPLE HAVE MORAL PROBLEMS WITH DULLAHAN RESEARCH...
I DON'T DISLIKE STUDYING...
I WANT TO FIND IT.
AND SOMEWHERE OUT THERE IS THE SECRET OF BEING A DULLAHAN.

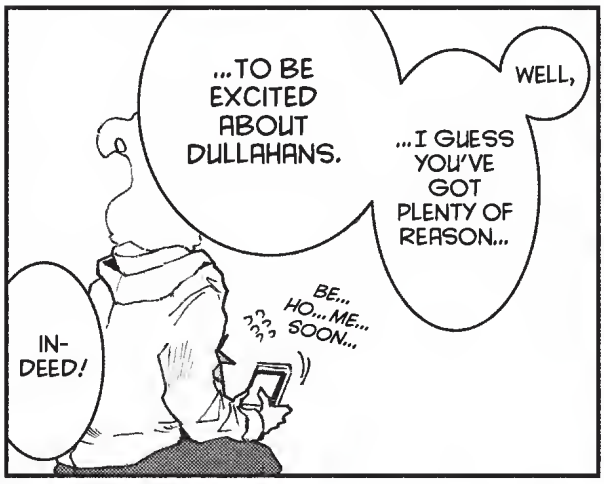

WHISPER ﾋｿﾋｿ
THEN MAYBE I...
...CAN BECOME A RESEARCHER...
...AND DO THE STUDIES MYSELF.

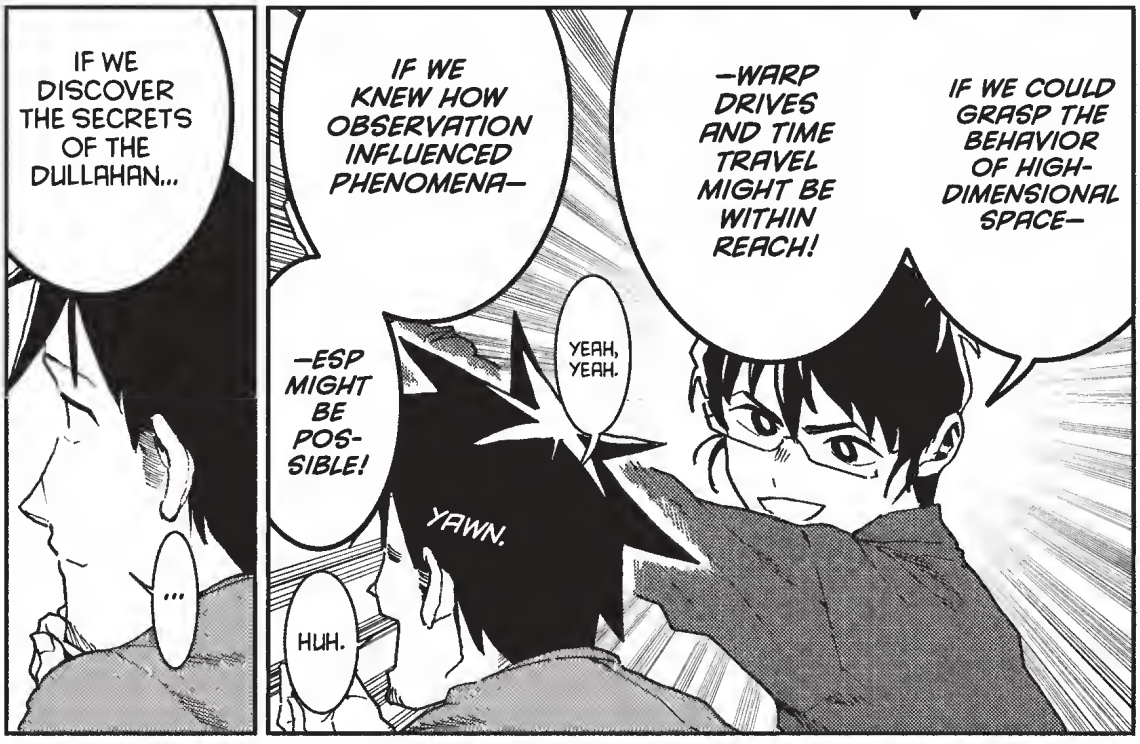

...
YEAH, RIGHT!
CLICK ｶﾁｯ
CLICK ｶﾁｯ



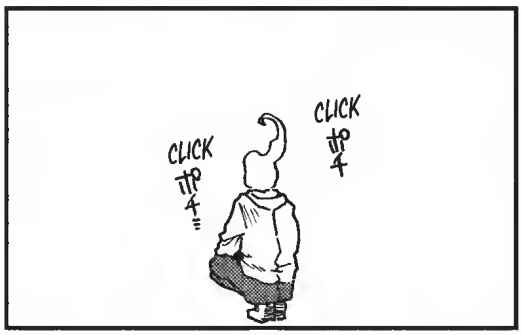
YES.
A STUDENT ON THE CUSP OF DISCOVERING HER FUTURE IS WONDERFUL INDEED.
...YOU HEAR THAT?
HA! HA! WELL SAID.


?!
YEAH, SURE.
INCIDENTALLY, I HAVE A PAMPHLET FOR OUR SCHOOL HERE...
I'LL PUT IN A GOOD WORD.
AREN'T YOU EAGER.

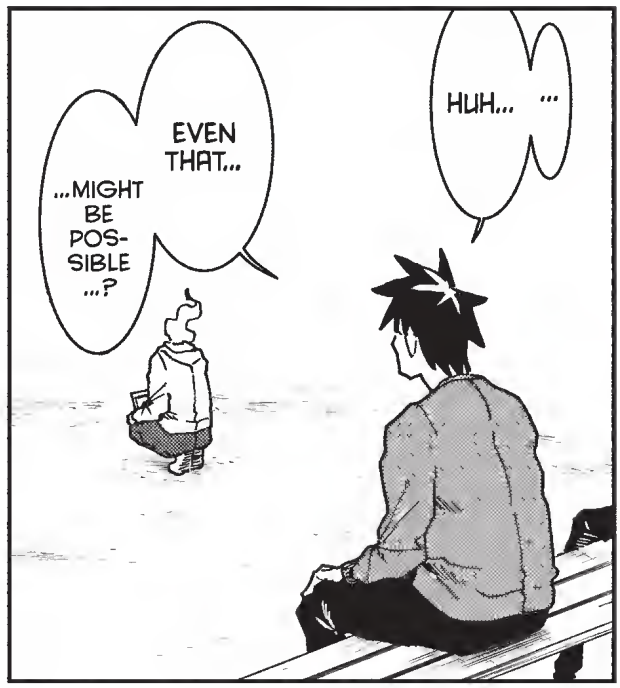

WELL,
...I GUESS YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF REASON...
...TO BE EXCITED ABOUT DULLAHANS.
BE.. HO... ME... SOON...
IN-DEED!

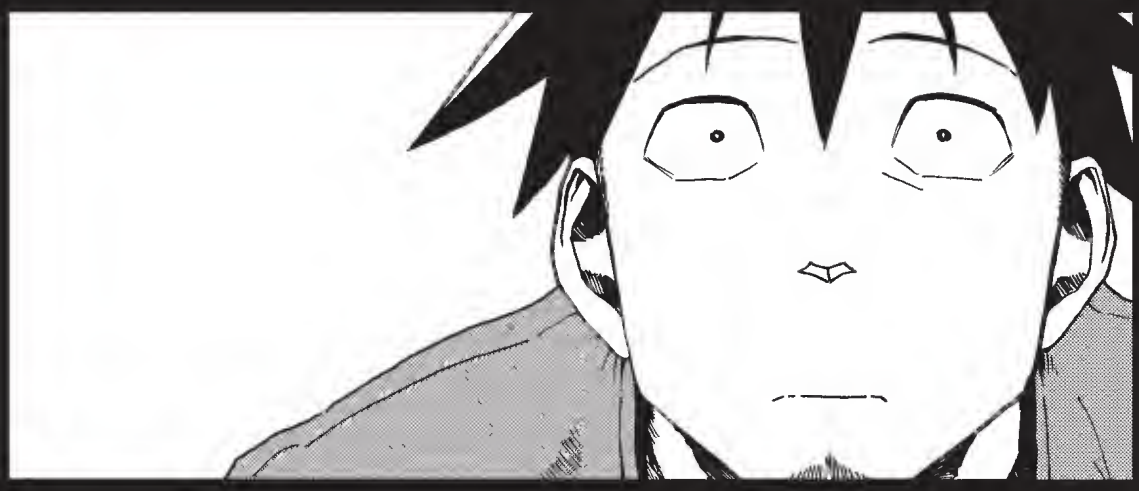

IF WE DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE DULLAHAN...
...
IF WE KNEW HOW OBSERVATION INFLUENCED PHENOMENA—
—ESP MIGHT BE POS-SIBLE!
—WARP DRIVES AND TIME TRAVEL MIGHT BE WITHIN REACH!
IF WE COULD GRASP THE BEHAVIOR OF HIGH-DIMENSIONAL SPACE—
YEAH, YEAH.
YAWN.
HUH.

...MACHI-KUN MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO LOOK LIKE A NORMAL PERSON.


CLICK
CLICK

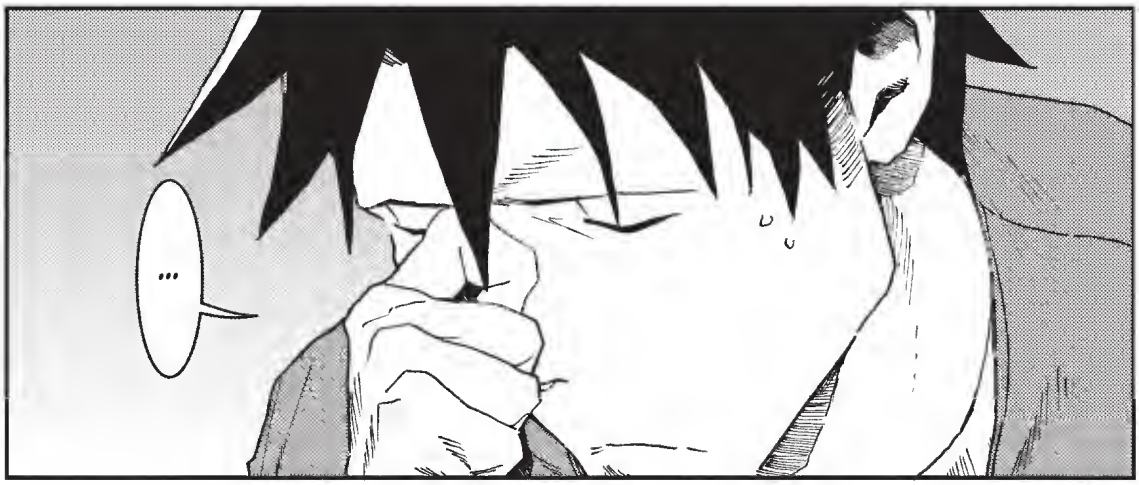
STAND


HUH... ...
EVEN THAT...
...MIGHT BE POS-SIBLE ...?

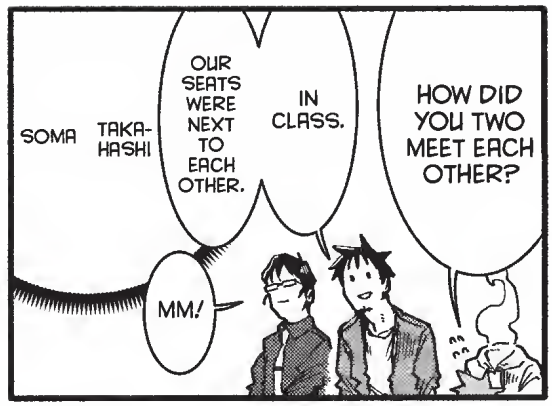


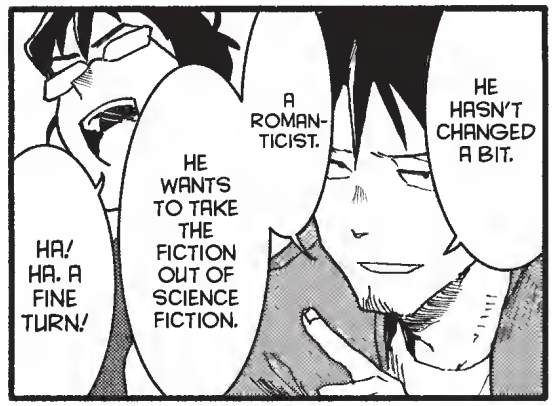
SURE.
THIS...
BUT IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.
...MIGHT BE...
...A SO-CALLED NORMAL BODY.

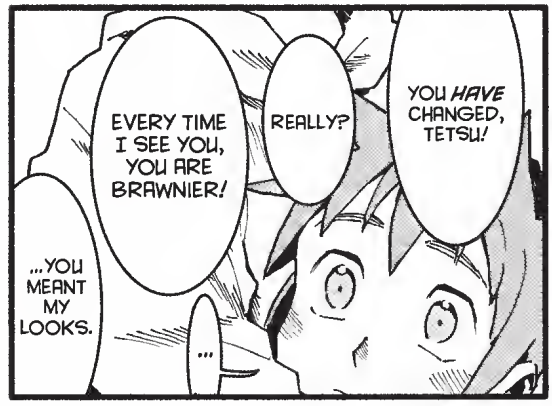
TAKAHASHI-SENSEI!
?
HAHA.
SHE'S STILL WHO SHE IS.
JUST... MORE LIKE THE OTHERS.
PLEASE PUT MY HEAD ON YOUR KNEES!
ズゥゥゥゥゥ
HUUUUG
WHISPER WHISPER
ヒソ
ヒソ
WHISPER WHISPER
ヒソ
ヒソ
WHISPER WHISPER
ヒソ
ヒソ
WHISPER WHISPER
ヒソ
ヒソ
PLEASE—
—HUG MY HEAD!

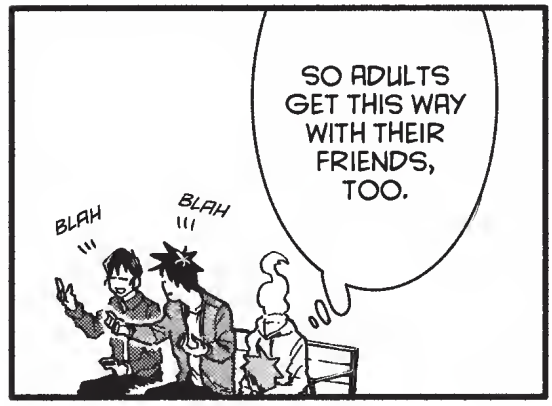

...

SUDDENLY THOSE ETHICAL QUESTIONS SEEM MORE IMPORTANT...
OH HO, TETSU! COME AROUND, HAVE YOU?
?
AN ADULT TRYING TO RESPECT SOCIAL BOUNDARIES IS WONDERFUL, TOO.


SOMA
TAKAHASHI
OUR SEATS WERE NEXT TO EACH OTHER.
IN CLASS.
HOW DID YOU TWO MEET EACH OTHER?
MM!

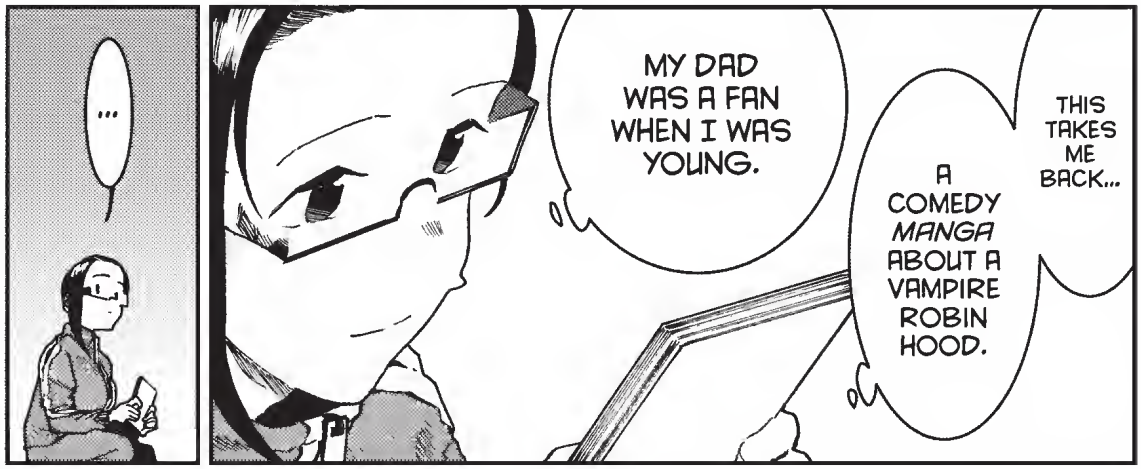

HA! HA. A FINE TURN!
HE WANTS TO TAKE THE FICTION OUT OF SCIENCE FICTION.
A ROMANTICIST.
HE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT.

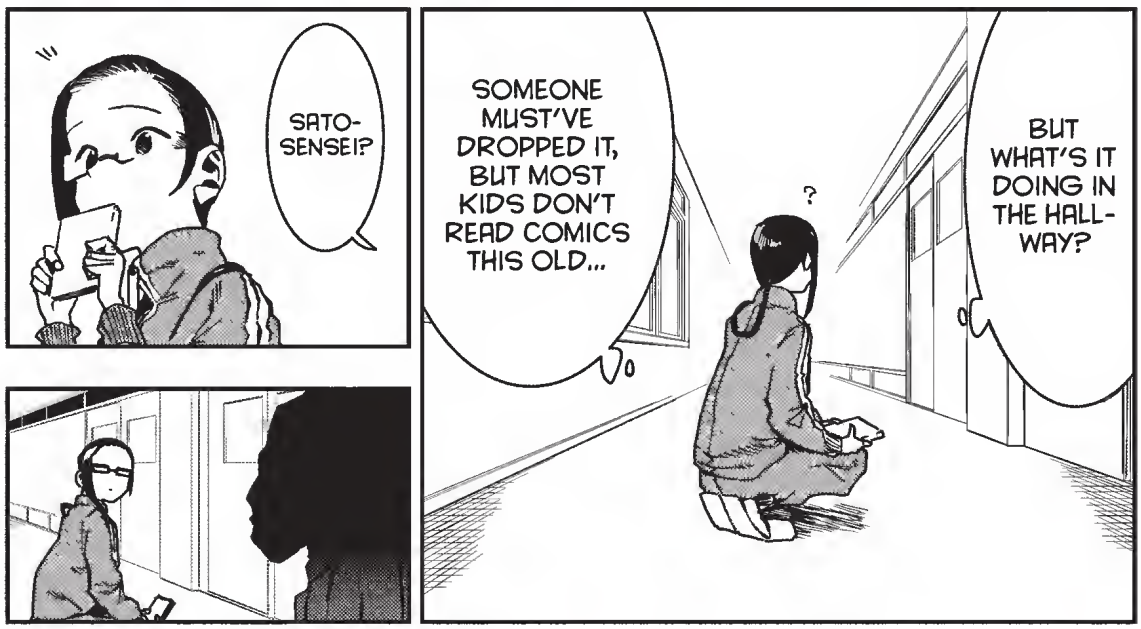

...YOU MEANT MY LOOKS.
EVERY TIME I SEE YOU, YOU ARE BRAWNIER!
REALLY?
YOU *HAVE* CHANGED, TETSU!
...


BLAH
BLAH
SO ADULTS GET THIS WAY WITH THEIR FRIENDS, TOO.

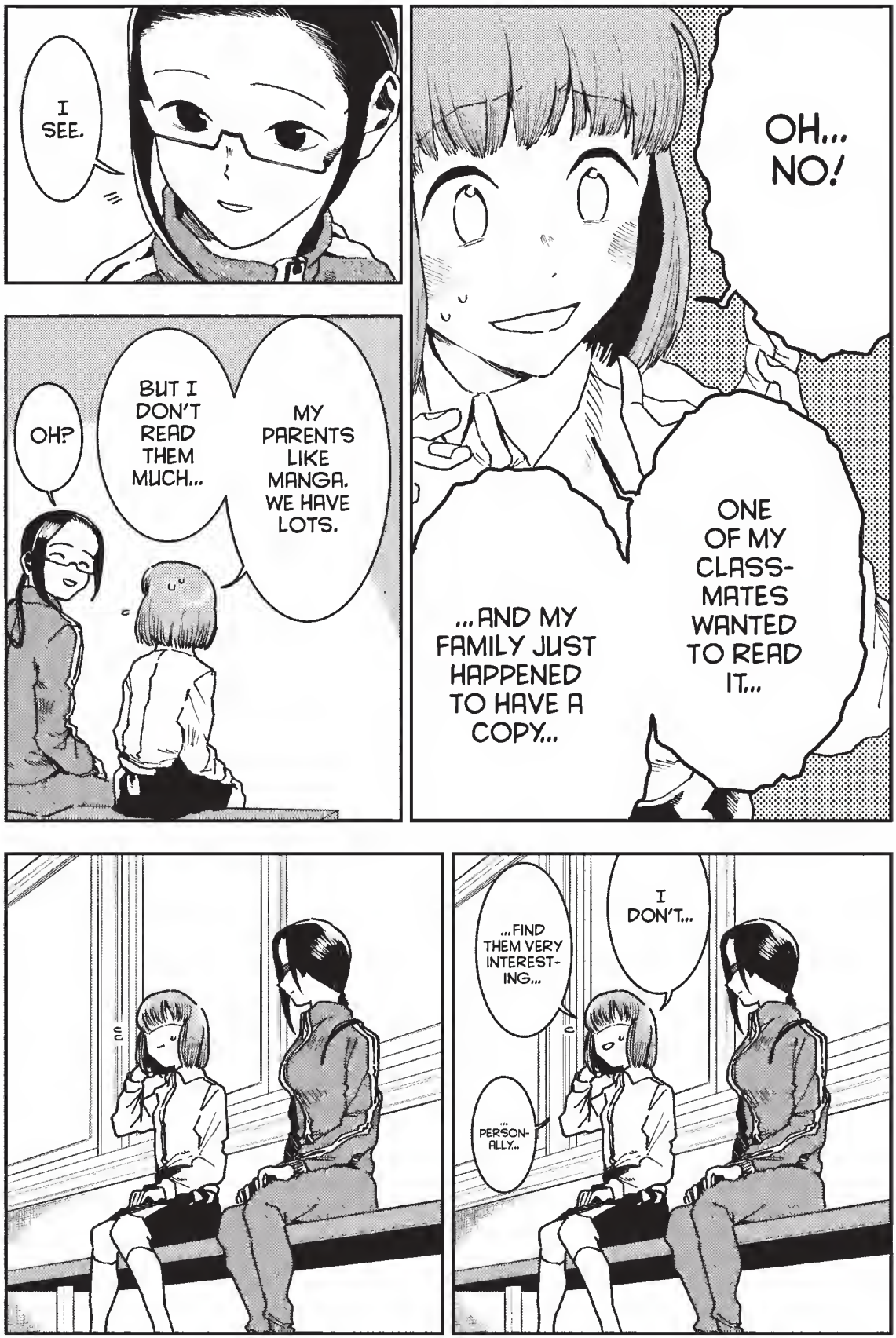
INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

THE AMAZING VAN DEURSEN...
1
The Amazing Van Deursen
Oomori
...VOLUME 1.

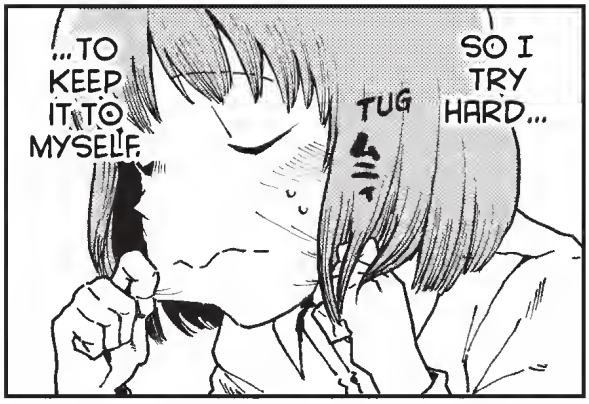

...
MY DAD WAS A FAN WHEN I WAS YOUNG.
A COMEDY *MANGA* ABOUT A VAMPIRE ROBIN HOOD.
THIS TAKES ME BACK...

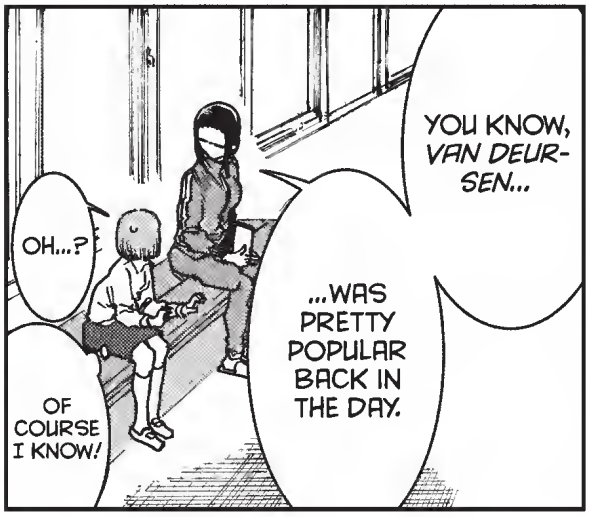

SATO-SENSEI?
SOMEONE MUST'VE DROPPED IT, BUT MOST KIDS DON'T READ COMICS THIS OLD...
?
BUT WHAT'S IT DOING IN THE HALL-WAY?

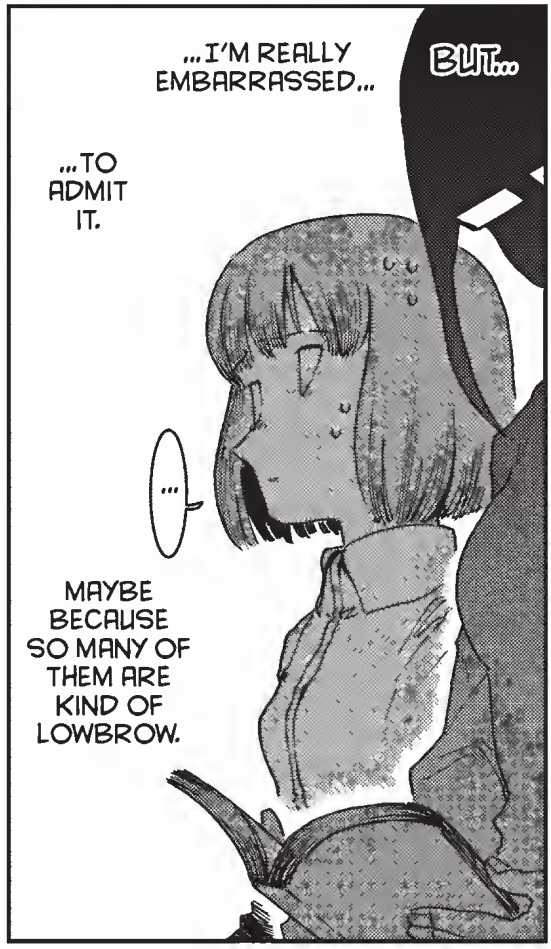
YOU DROPPED IT, YUKI-CHAN?
S-SORRY. I KNOW COMICS AT SCHOOL ARE KIND OF...
I'M SURPRISED, THOUGH.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LIKED GAG MANGA.
HUH?
IT'S FINE. JUST NOT DURING SCHOOL HOURS.
OUR SECRET!
YOU'RE TRADING WITH YOUR FRIENDS, RIGHT?
Y-YES.
THANK YOU.


I SEE.
OH...
NO!
ONE OF MY CLASS-MATES WANTED TO READ IT...
...AND MY FAMILY JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE A COPY...
MY PARENTS LIKE MANGA. WE HAVE LOTS.
BUT I DON'T READ THEM MUCH...
OH?
I DON'T...
...FIND THEM VERY INTEREST-ING...
...PERSON-ALLY...

I ACTUALLY LOVE GAG MANGA.
THAT'S A LIE.


...TO KEEP IT TO MYSELF.
TUG
SO I TRY HARD...

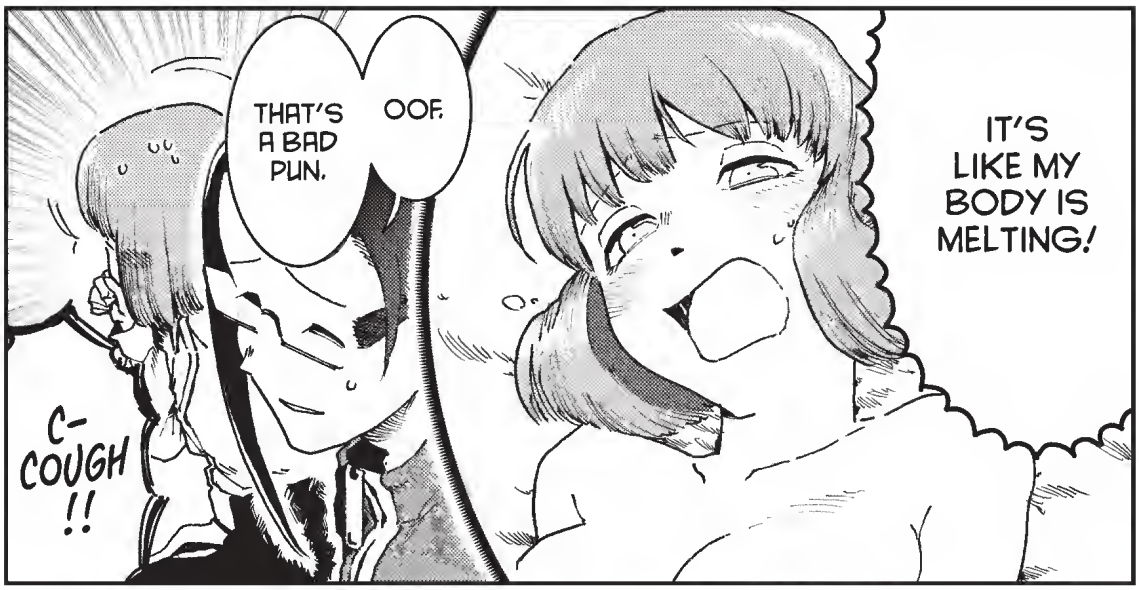

YOU KNOW, VAN DEURSEN...
...WAS PRETTY POPULAR BACK IN THE DAY.
OH...?
OF COURSE I KNOW!


...I'M REALLY EMBARRASSED...
BUT...
...TO ADMIT IT.
...
MAYBE BECAUSE SO MANY OF THEM ARE KIND OF LOWBROW.

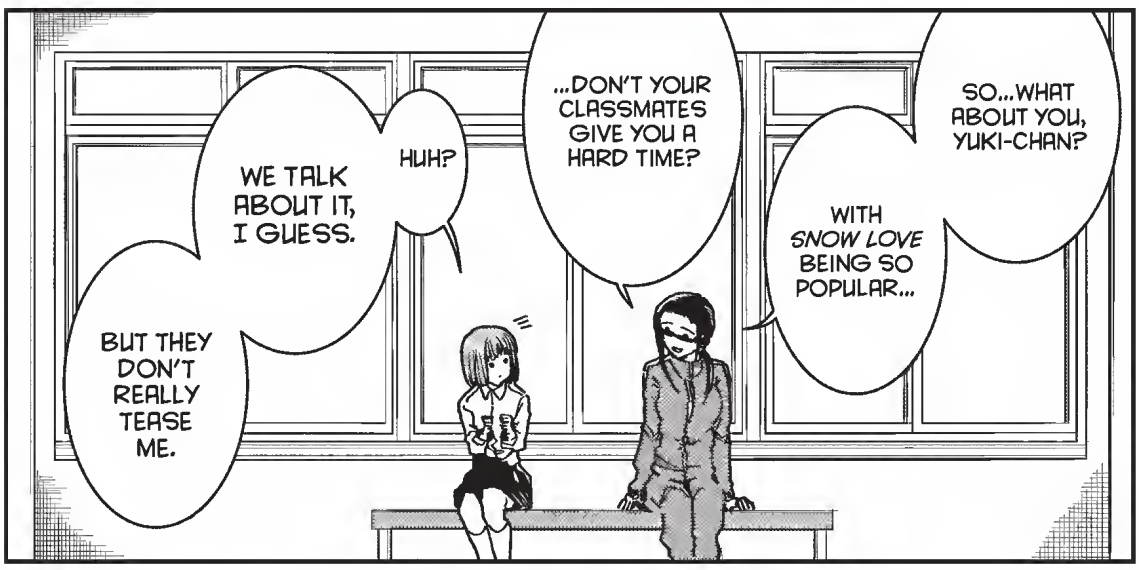
VAN DEURSEN ALWAYS HAD THESE FUNNY WARNING LETTERS HE WOULD SEND TO HIS TARGETS...
...
VAN DEURSEN, THE VAMPIRE ROBIN HOOD...
...WOULD PUNISH THE POWERFUL BY DRINKING THEIR BLOOD!
BUT ALWAYS IN A FUNNY WAY.
AND THEY'D BE IN CODE!
WARNING LETTER
?
THE ANSWER WAS ALWAYS "BLOOD"!
AND AS SOON AS THE TARGET CRACKED THE CODE...
...YOU KNEW VAN DEURSEN WAS GOING TO JUMP AT THEM FROM BEHIND!
WH...
WHAT IS THIS...?!

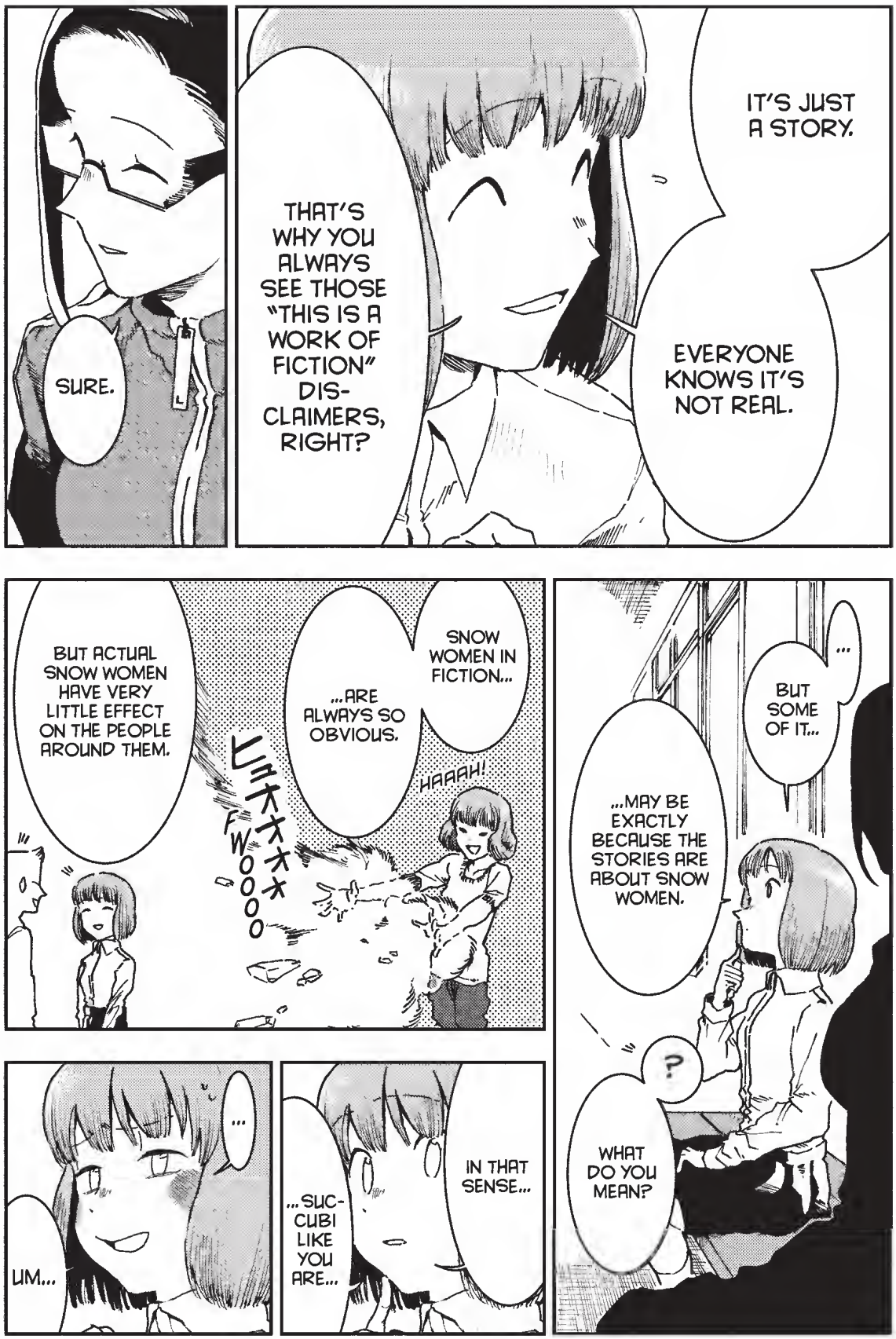
CHI... "BLOOD"?!
FLUTTER
What syllable is missing in these prefecture names?
TO ? BA GI
...
PFF- PFFT!!
WHAT A WEIRD RIDDLE!

BETTER CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
SNOW WOMEN HAVE GOTTEN MORE POPULAR IN MANGA ABOUT DEMIS.
OH!
NOT THAT I READ THEM.
YOU MEAN SNOW LOVE!
?
YUKI-CHAN?
I—I'M FINE.
JUST A SNEEZE...
SHOOT... I COULDN'T HELP LAUGH-ING...
SNOW LOVE
THAT WOMEN'S COMIC ABOUT A SNOW WOMAN WHO MOVES FROM AOMORI TO TOKYO TO PURSUE A CAREER—AND ROMANCE!
THEY'RE MAKING IT A LIVE-ACTION MOVIE NEXT FALL.
...SHARE ONE PASSION-ATE NIGHT...
...AND THEN...
THEY MEET...
FLUTTER
A SOCIETY COLDER THAN A SNOW WOMAN...

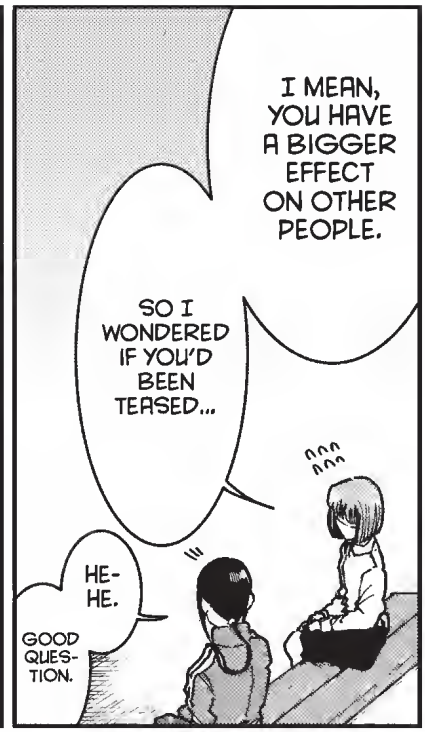

IT'S LIKE MY BODY IS MELTING!
OOF.
THAT'S A BAD PUN.
C-COUGH!!

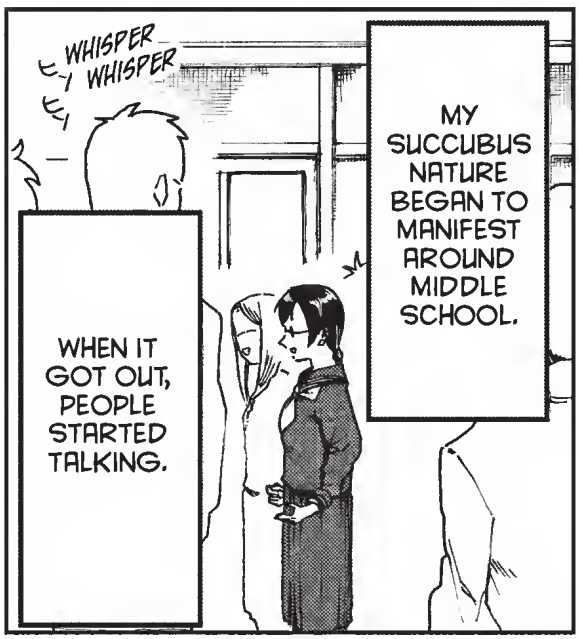
YUKI-CHAN?
I'M FINE. A BUG FLEW IN MY MOUTH.
SOUNDS SEXY. I'LL HAVE TO GO SEE IT...
...

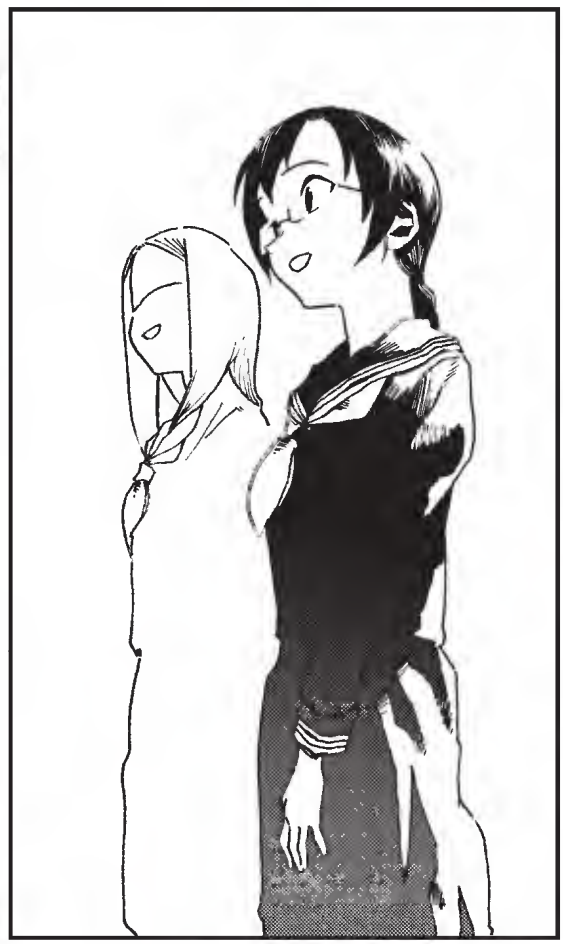

SO...WHAT ABOUT YOU, YUKI-CHAN?
...DON'T YOUR CLASSMATES GIVE YOU A HARD TIME?
WITH *SNOW LOVE* BEING SO POPULAR...
HUH?
WE TALK ABOUT IT, I GUESS.
BUT THEY DON'T REALLY TEASE ME.

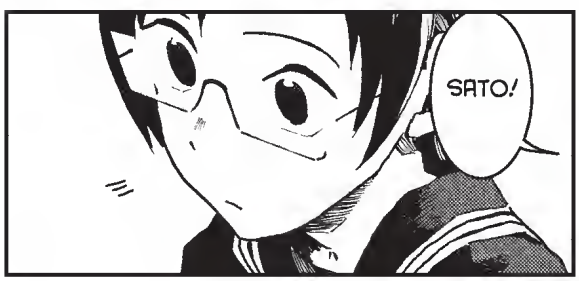

SURE.
THAT'S WHY YOU ALWAYS SEE THOSE "THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION" DIS-CLAIMERS, RIGHT?
IT'S JUST A STORY.
EVERYONE KNOWS IT'S NOT REAL.
BUT ACTUAL SNOW WOMEN HAVE VERY LITTLE EFFECT ON THE PEOPLE AROUND THEM.
...ARE ALWAYS SO OBVIOUS.
SNOW WOMEN IN FICTION...
HAAAH!
ヒョオオオ
FWOOOO
...
BUT SOME OF IT...
...MAY BE EXACTLY BECAUSE THE STORIES ARE ABOUT SNOW WOMEN.
?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...
UM...
...SUC-CUBI LIKE YOU ARE...
IN THAT SENSE...

I GUESS...
...I WAS, ONCE.


I MEAN, YOU HAVE A BIGGER EFFECT ON OTHER PEOPLE.
SO I WONDERED IF YOU'D BEEN TEASED...
HE-HE.
GOOD QUES-TION.


WHISPER WHISPER
MY SUCCUBUS NATURE BEGAN TO MANIFEST AROUND MIDDLE SCHOOL.
WHEN IT GOT OUT, PEOPLE STARTED TALKING.

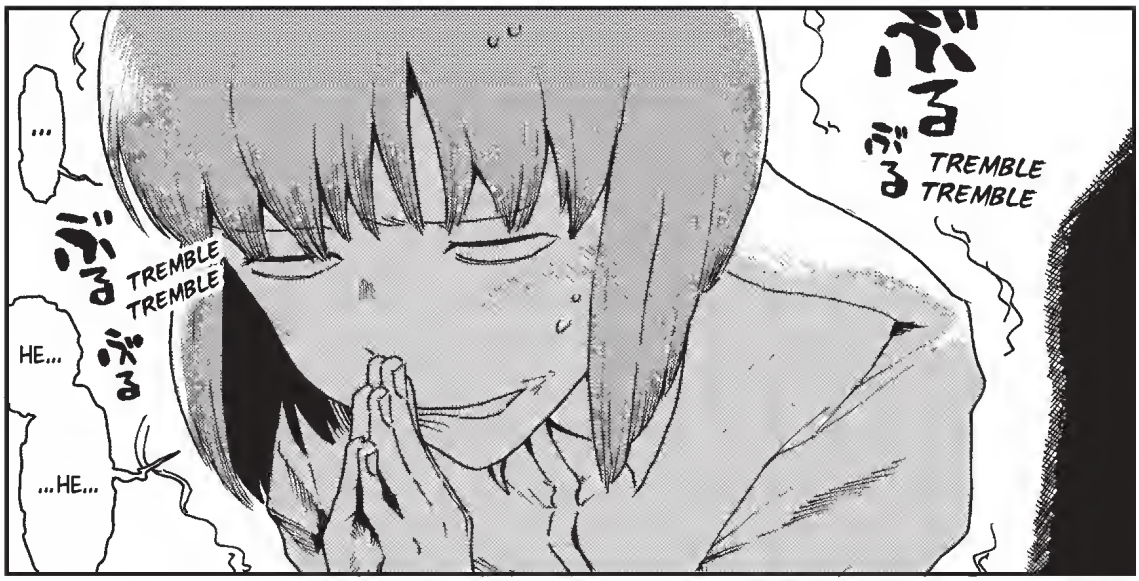


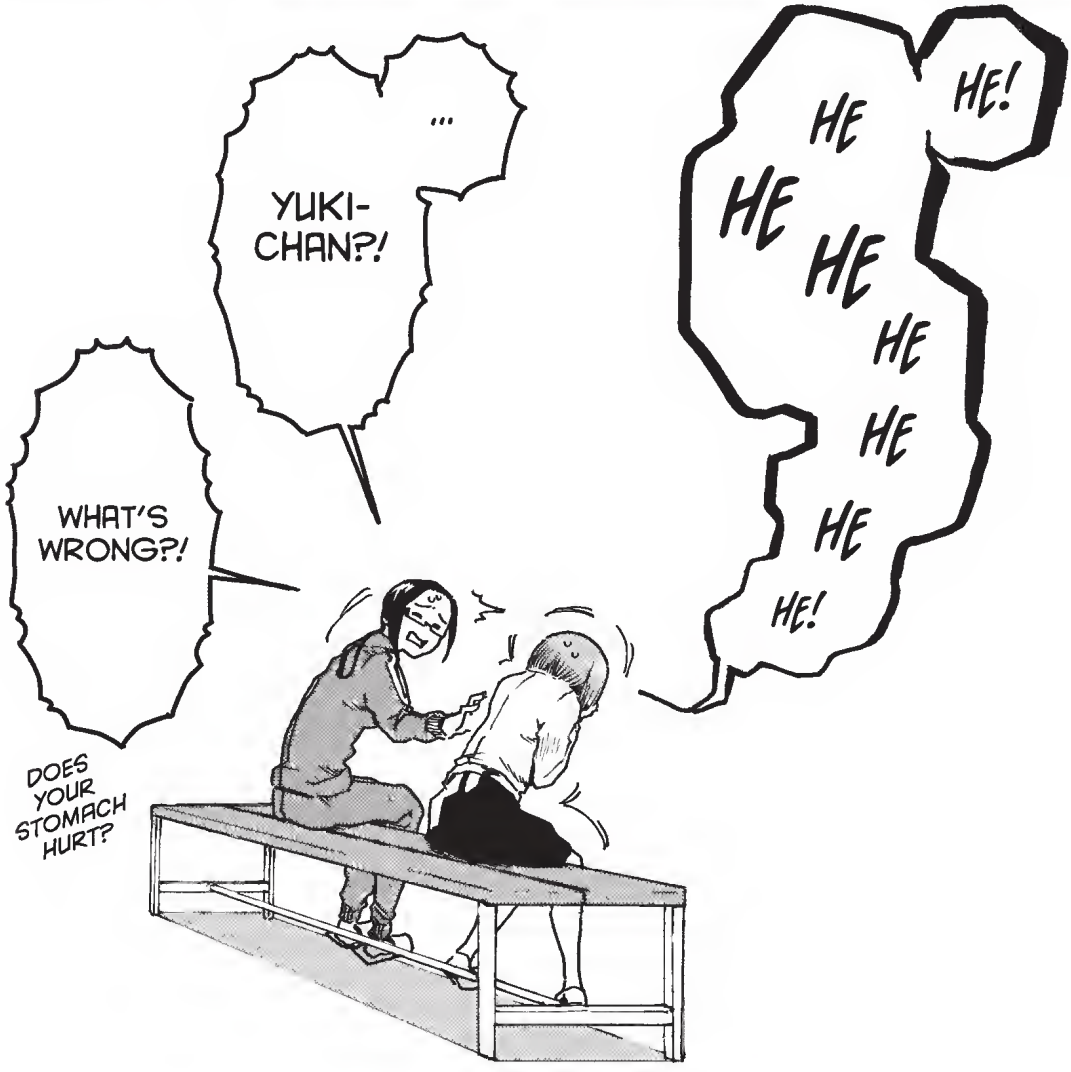

SATO!

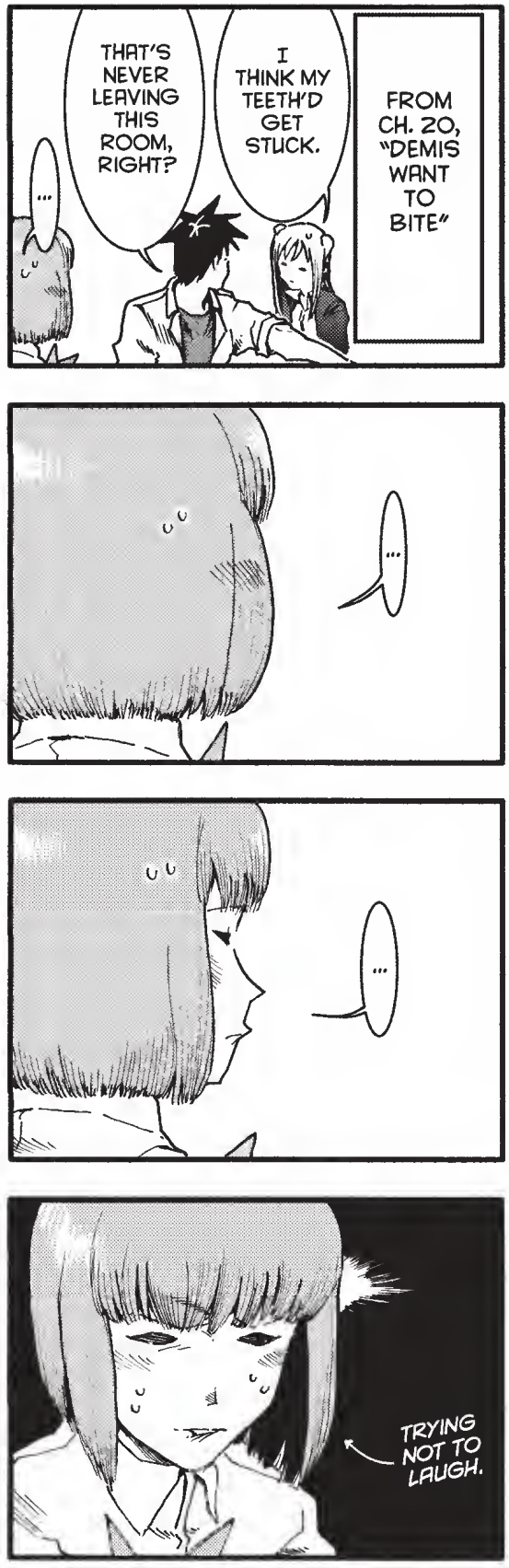
YO.
SATO.
SO.
YOU'RE A SUCCUBUS, HUH?
I...I GUESS SO.
AND THEN...
...TAKKUN, THE LEADER OF OUR SCHOOL'S GANG OF TOUGH GUYS, GOT INVOLVED.
GRR...
JUST TRY AND AROUSE ME.
THAT'S YOUR DEAL, ISN'T IT?
SEE, I'D...
...BEEN LEARNING JUDO.
TH— THAT'S TERRIBLE!
IT WAS FINE.

TAKKUN!
FWOP
EEK!
FWUMP
GRAB
CREAAA-AAAAAK
H-HEY, SATO, LET HIM GO!
EE-YOW-OW-OW-OW-OW!
YOW-OW-OW-OW-OW! ST-ST-ST-
TAK-KUN!

STOP TRYING TO STOP HER!
HURT ME MORE!
はぁ はぁ PANT PANT
THAT WAS IT FOR HIS REPU-TATION.
AND THE OTHER TOUGH KIDS WERE TOO SCARED TO GET ANYWHERE NEAR ME.
…
!
SORRY.
I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE LOWBROW STUFF.

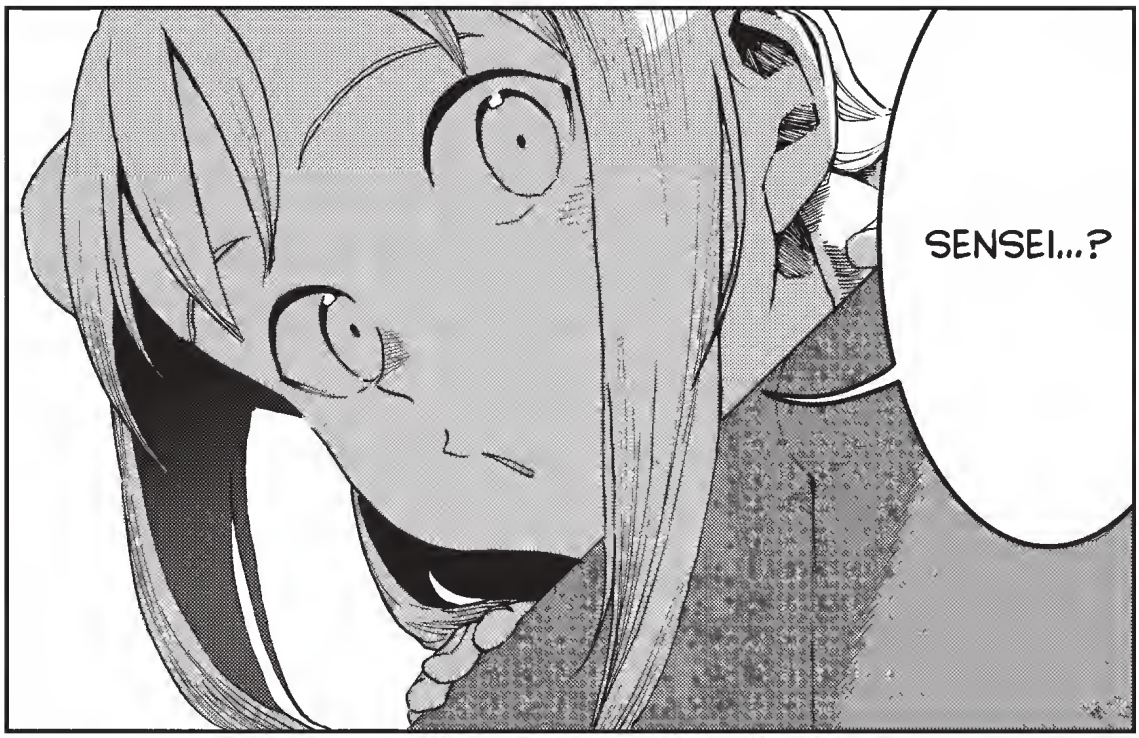

...
ぶる
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
HE...
ぶる
...HE...
ぶる
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

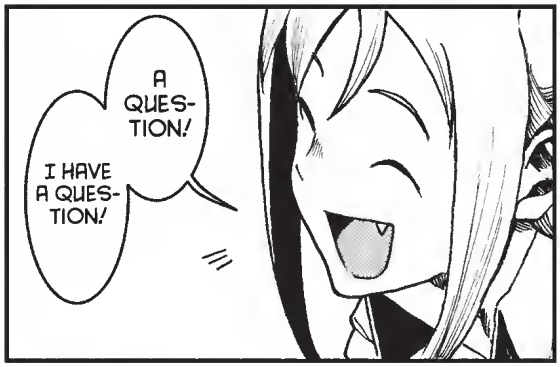

...
YUKI-CHAN?!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
DOES YOUR STOMACH HURT?
HE!
HE
HE
HE
HE
HE
HE
HE
HE!


...
THAT'S NEVER LEAVING THIS ROOM, RIGHT?
I THINK MY TEETH'D GET STUCK.
FROM CH. 20, "DEMIS WANT TO BITE"
...
...
TRYING NOT TO LAUGH.

INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

HUFF
PUFF
RUUUUUSTLE
HUFF
PUFF
!!
BA-DUM
GRAAAH

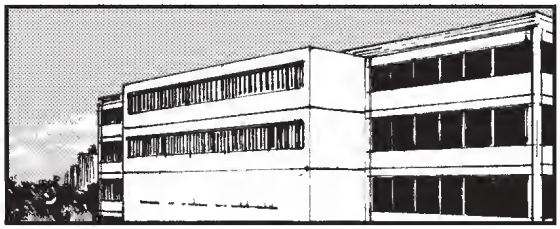

SENSEI...?

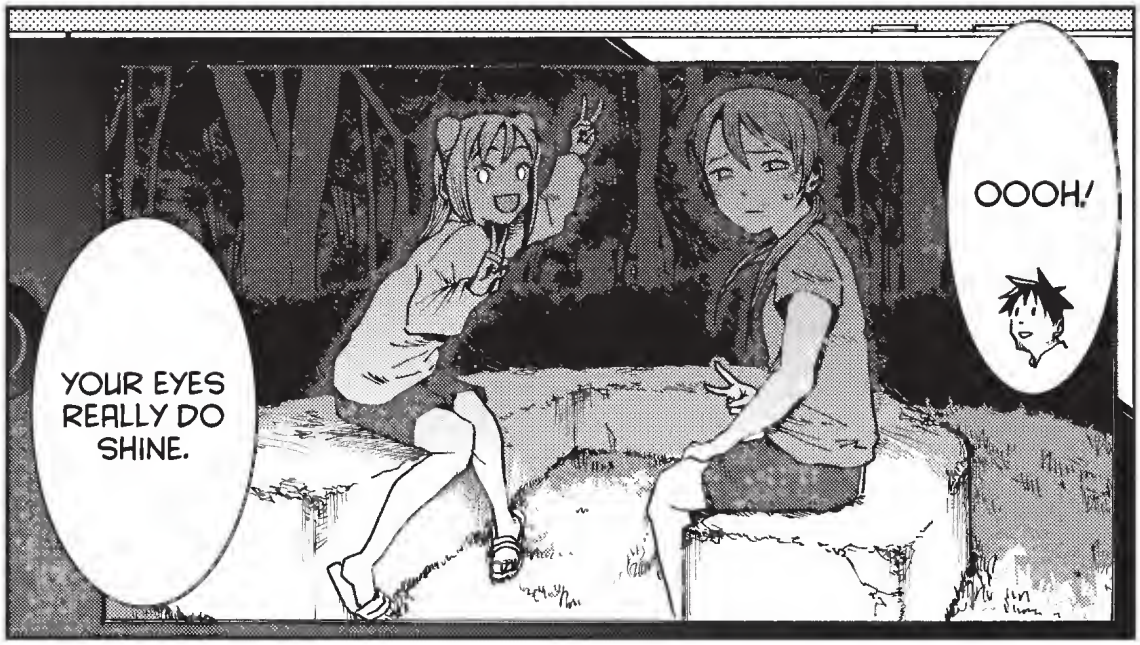

A QUES-TION!
I HAVE A QUES-TION!

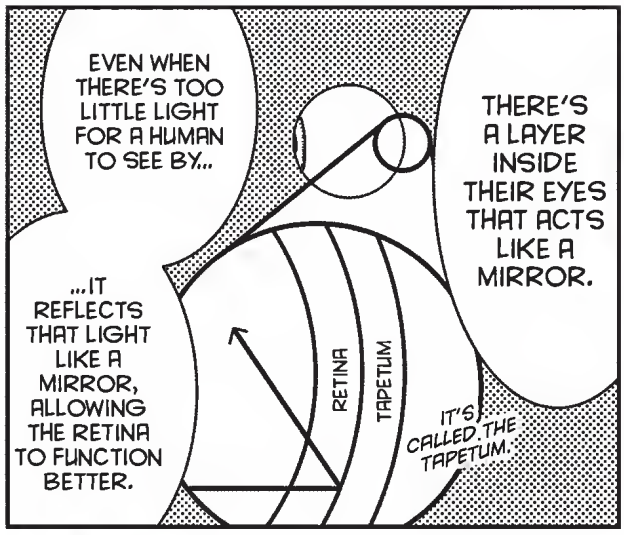
...
?
OH.

?

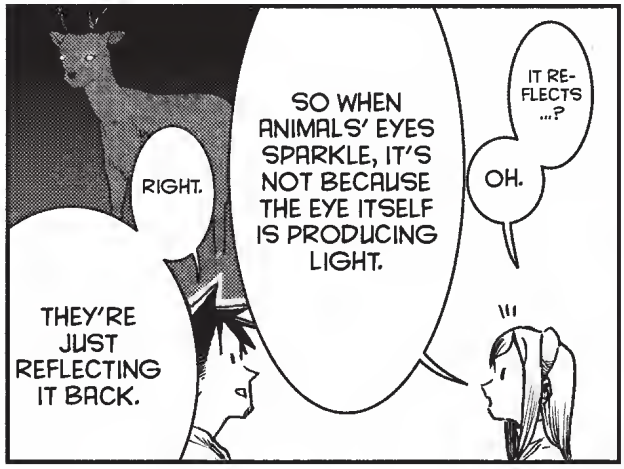
OOP.
HEY, HIKARI.
NEED SOME-THING?
DID I WAKE YOU UP?
SORRY.
WHAT'S UP?
IT'S FINE.



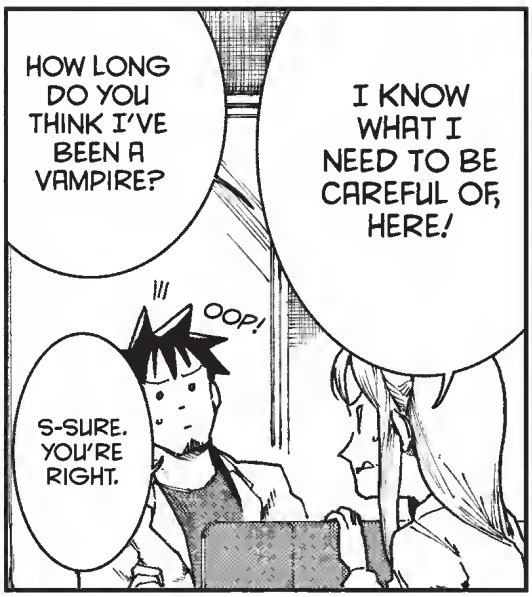

YOUR EYES REALLY DO SHINE.
OOOH!


EVEN WHEN THERE'S TOO LITTLE LIGHT FOR A HUMAN TO SEE BY...
...IT REFLECTS THAT LIGHT LIKE A MIRROR, ALLOWING THE RETINA TO FUNCTION BETTER.
THERE'S A LAYER INSIDE THEIR EYES THAT ACTS LIKE A MIRROR.
RETINA
TAPETUM
IT'S CALLED THE TAPETUM.

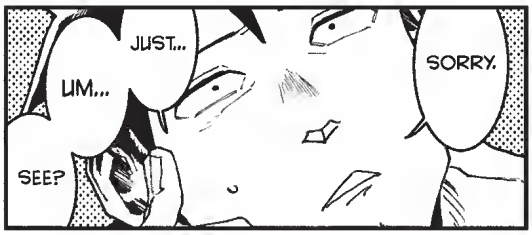
DO YOU THINK THIS PICTURE EXPLAINS WHY VAMPIRES SEE SO WELL AT NIGHT?
SURE.
IT'S JUST LIKE ANIMALS WITH GOOD NIGHT VISION.

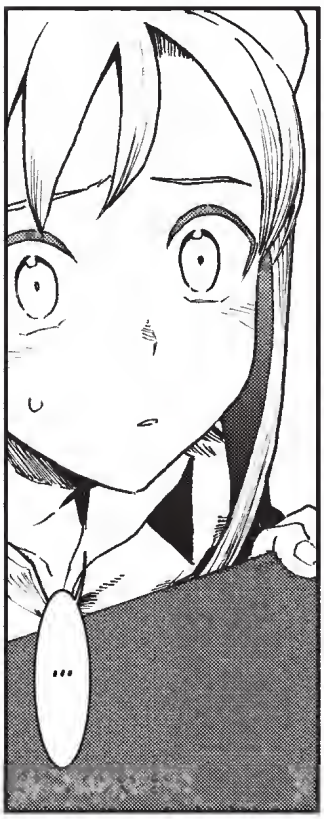

RIGHT.
THEY'RE JUST REFLECTING IT BACK.
SO WHEN ANIMALS' EYES SPARKLE, IT'S NOT BECAUSE THE EYE ITSELF IS PRODUCING LIGHT.
OH.
IT RE-FLECTS ...?

...
I'M GLAD I ASKED YOU, SENSEI.
SO I SEE BETTER AT NIGHT BECAUSE MY EYES ARE ACTUALLY BUILT DIFFERENT!
HUH!
INTER-ESTING!
...BE CAREFUL YOU DON'T HURT YOUR EYES, EITHER, ALL RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT...
THAT'S WHY FLASH PHOTOG-RAPHY IS PROHIBITED AT THE ZOO!
SURE THING!
SO YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL.
...THOSE KINDS OF EYES ARE USUALLY HIGHLY PHOTO-SENSITIVE.
BUT...
SURE...
...IT'S NOT JUST ANEMIA. YOU SHOULD WATCH OUT YOU DON'T GET A SUNBURN.
IN SUMMER...
HUH!
VAMPIRES HAVE STRONG SENSES
↓
AND SENSITIVE SKIN
↓
SKIN READILY IRRITATED
↓
VULNERABLE TO STRONG SUNLIGHT.
...VAMPIRES ARE PROBABLY AFFECTED BY STRONG SUNLIGHT FOR THE SAME REASON, SO...
AND...


HOW LONG DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN A VAMPIRE?
I KNOW WHAT I NEED TO BE CAREFUL OF, HERE!
OOP!
S-SURE. YOU'RE RIGHT.

SENSEI?
OH.
AND ONE MORE THING YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL OF—


JUST...
SORRY.
UM...
SEE?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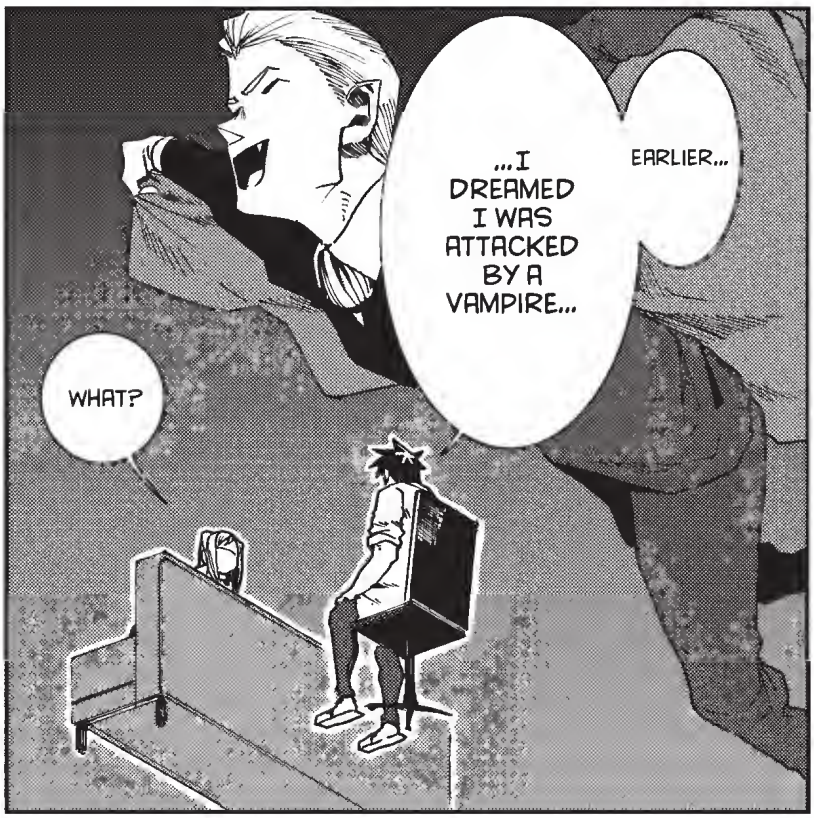
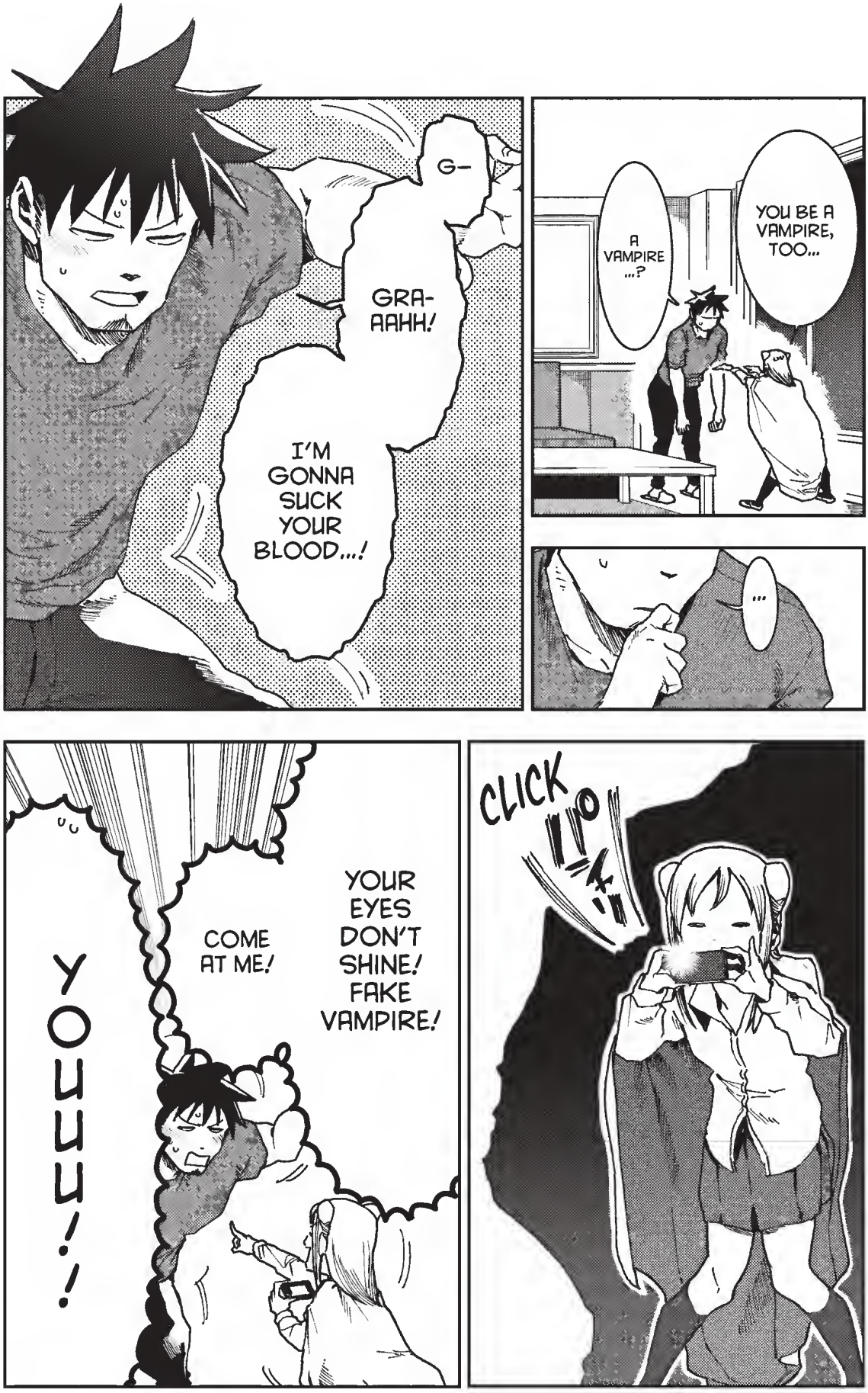

...I DREAMED I WAS ATTACKED BY A VAMPIRE...
EARLIER...
WHAT?

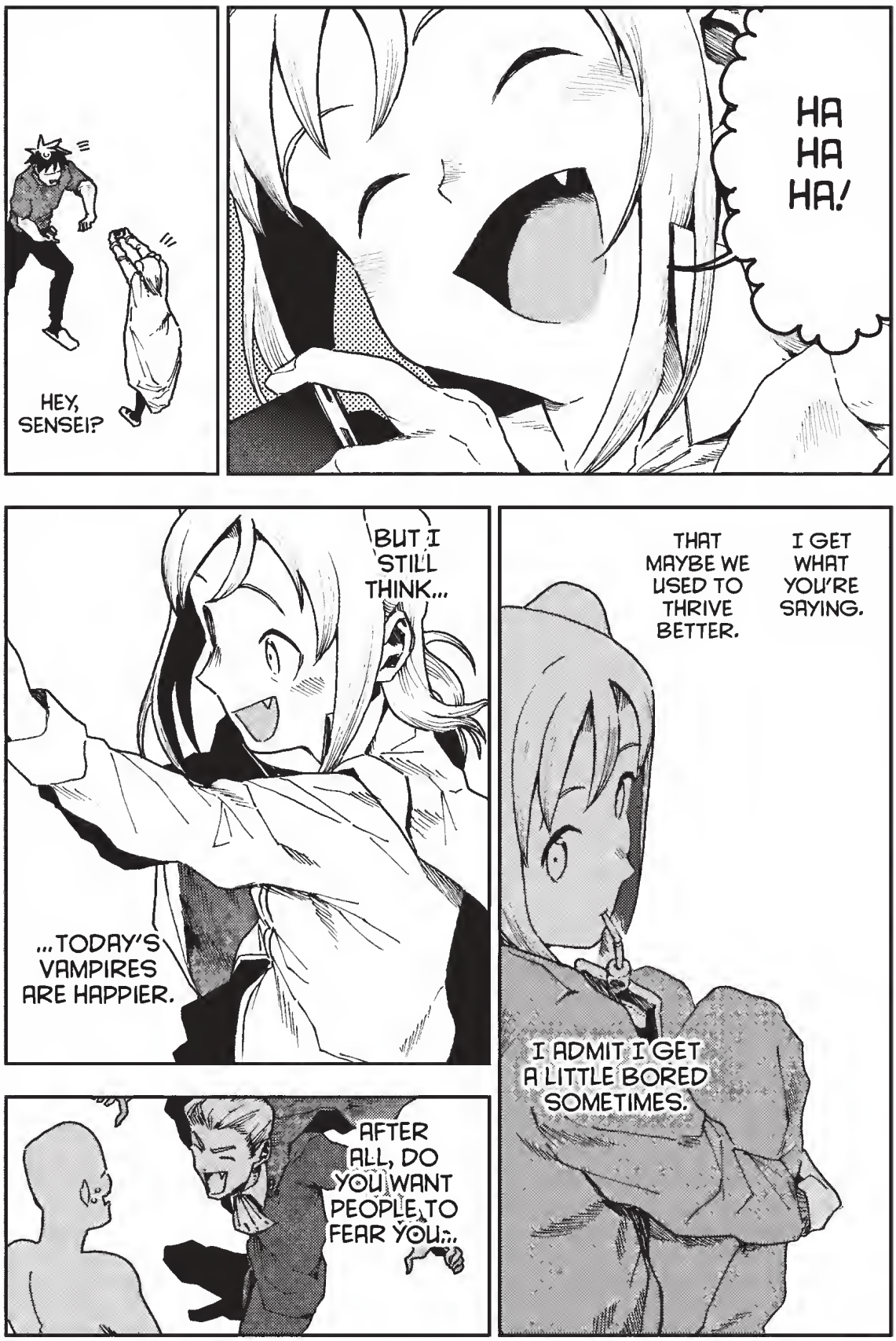
HM-MM.
WELL...
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST RIGHT.
WERE YOU SCARED ...?
HUH?
FOR A VAMPIRE TO ATTACK A HUMAN IN THE DARK...
...SEEMED VERY NATURAL.
IT ALLOWS THEM TO AVOID SUNLIGHT...
...AND MAKE THE BEST USE OF THEIR EXCEPTIONAL SENSES...
...TO GET THE BLOOD THEY WANT.
JUST LIKE ANY HUNTING ANIMAL.
IT SEEMED LIKE THE WAY A VAMPIRE COULD BEST THRIVE.

UH-UH!
SORRY.
...MAYBE I WAS TOO EAGER TO GIVE YOU ADVICE.
I GOT CONCERNED FOR YOU, AND...
I'M SO GLAD YOU CARE THAT MUCH ABOUT ME!
THANKS!
FROM THAT PERSPEC-TIVE...
...VAMPIRES TODAY, LIVING LIKE "NORMAL" PEOPLE...
...MUST AT LEAST BE A LITTLE BIT BORED.
...
HOW-
-EV-
-ER!
YOU'RE MISSING ONE THING.
...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
GIMME THAT.

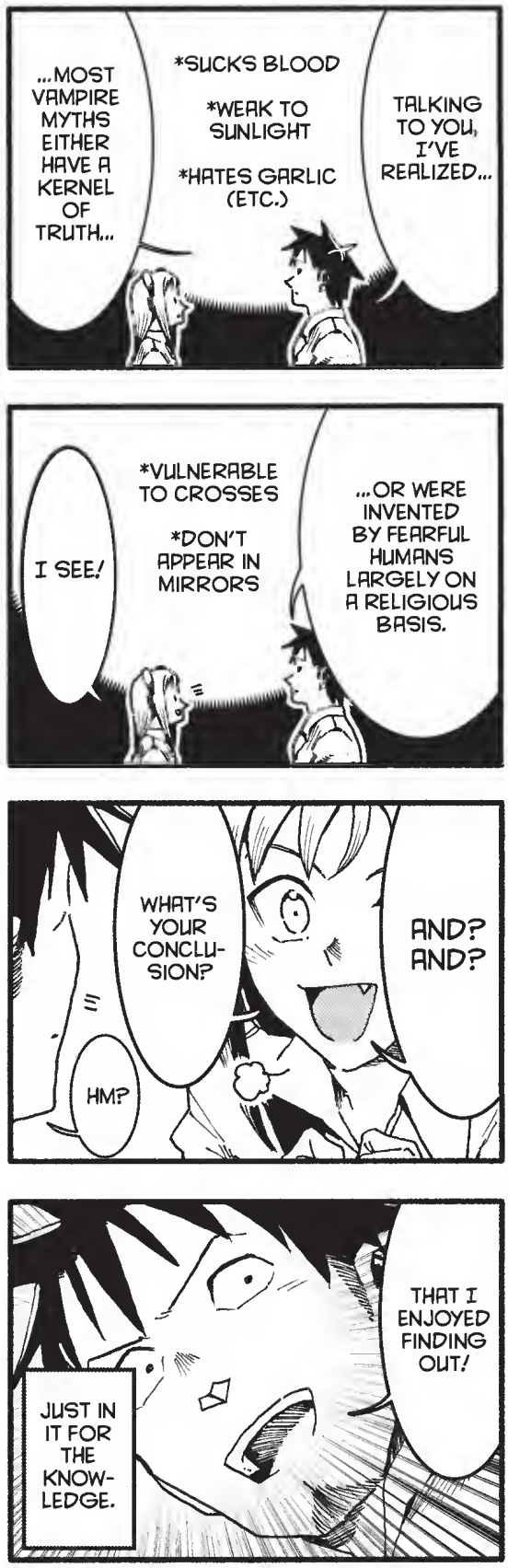
?
MODERN VAMPIRES CAN STILL HUNT JUST FINE!
E: WHITE COAT
ずいい
STAAARE
...
I SEEK MY PREY WITH MY VAMPIRE EYES!
WITH MY WHITE CAPE FLYING!
IF IT ISN'T THE BOX OF CANDIES YOUR COLLEGE FRIEND GAVE YOU!
I'M GOING IN!
LOCKED ON!
WHAT'S THIS?

GRAAAHHHHH!
YOUR UNDER-WEAR'S SHOWING.
GRAB
I'M SORRY!!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
!!
I'VE GRIEV-OUSLY OFFENDED YOUR DELICACY!
OKAY, THEN, SENSEI...
H-HOW ABOUT YOU JOIN THE FUN...?
W—WHY, YOU...


G–
GRA-AAHH!
I'M GONNA SUCK YOUR BLOOD...!
A VAMPIRE ...?
YOU BE A VAMPIRE, TOO...
...
CLICK
YOUUU!!
COME AT ME!
YOUR EYES DON'T SHINE! FAKE VAMPIRE!


HEY, SENSEI?
HA HA HA!
I GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
THAT MAYBE WE USED TO THRIVE BETTER.
I ADMIT I GET A LITTLE BORED SOMETIMES.
BUT I STILL THINK...
...TODAY'S VAMPIRES ARE HAPPIER.
AFTER ALL, DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO FEAR YOU...

...OR LAUGH AND PLAY WITH YOU?


...MOST VAMPIRE MYTHS EITHER HAVE A KERNEL OF TRUTH...
*SUCKS BLOOD
*WEAK TO SUNLIGHT
*HATES GARLIC (ETC.)
TALKING TO YOU, I'VE REALIZED...
I SEE!
*VULNERABLE TO CROSSES
*DON'T APPEAR IN MIRRORS
...OR WERE INVENTED BY FEARFUL HUMANS LARGELY ON A RELIGIOUS BASIS.
HM?
WHAT'S YOUR CONCLU-SION?
AND? AND?
JUST IN IT FOR THE KNOW-LEDGE.
THAT I ENJOYED FINDING OUT!

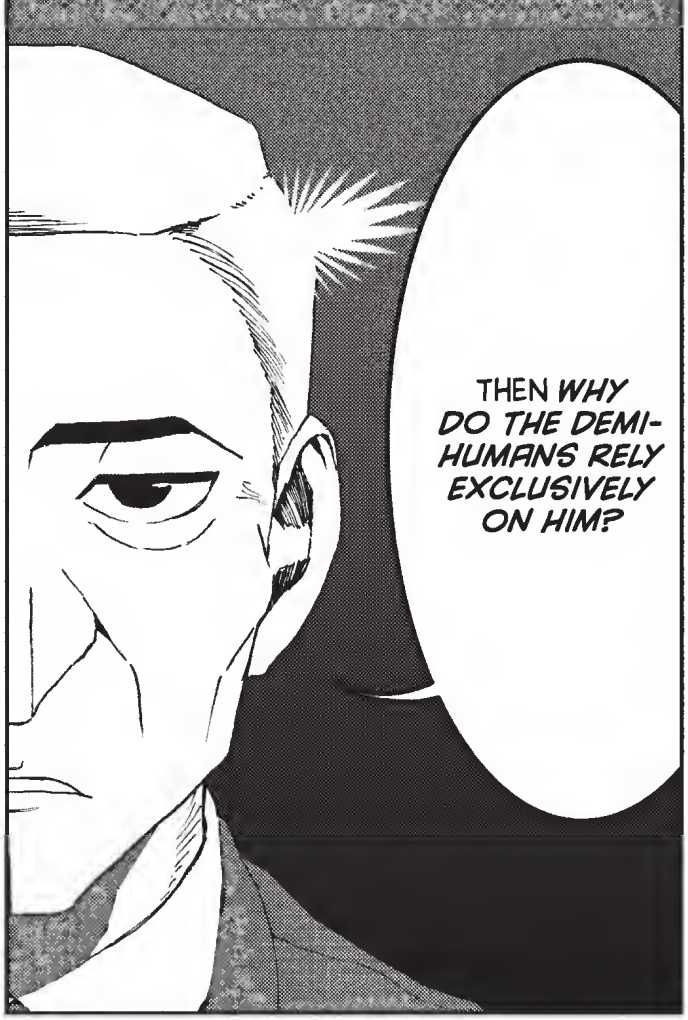
INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

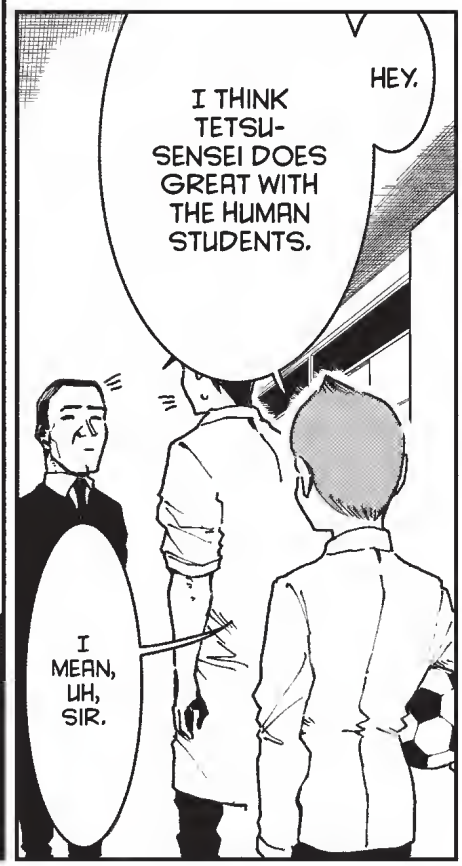
Chapter 29: Tetsuo Takahashi Wants To Help

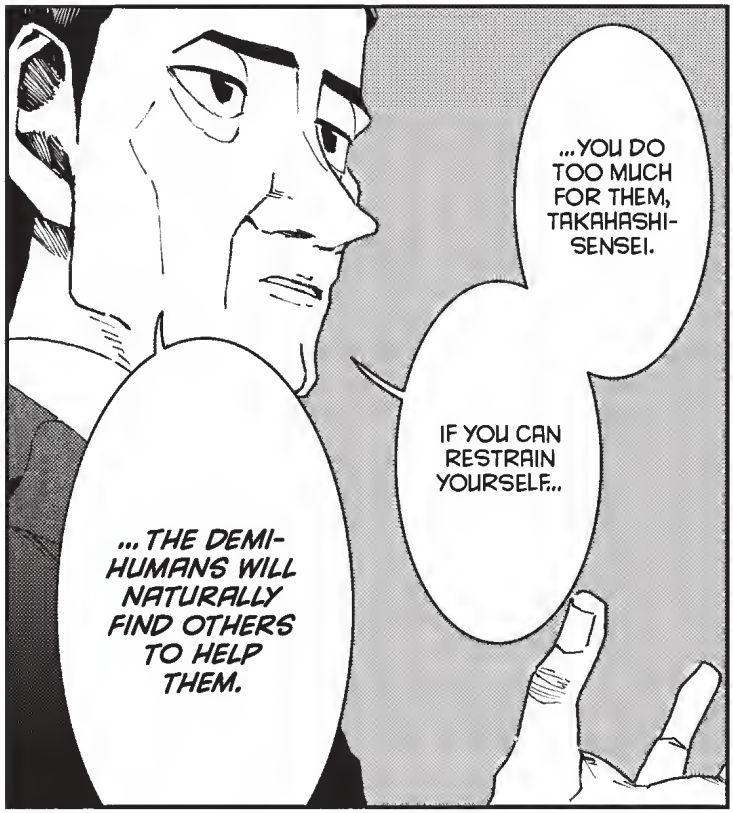
GREAT TIMING!
OH!
TETSU-SENSEI!
HUH?
CAN'T PLAY TODAY, ANYWAY.
I'LL BE FILLING YUKI AND HIKARI IN ON MY PLAN FOR HOW TO SURVIVE SUMMER...
NO WAY
!
WHAT DO YOU THINK TEACHERS ARE FOR?
WE WANNA PLAY SOCCER AFTER SCHOOL, BUT WE NEED MORE PEOPLE.
WANT TO BE GOALIE?

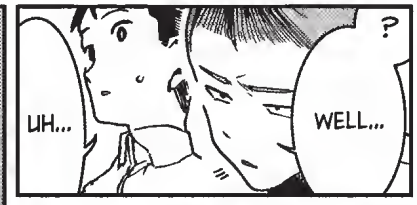
YOU'RE CERTAINLY TAKEN WITH THE DEMIS, SENSEI.
WHA?
A-AM I...?
WHAA-AAT?
AGAIN?
HUH?
REALLY ...?
YES...
REALLY.
BOP BOP
ドゴ ドゴ
SURE ARE!
ドゴ BOP
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THEY ASK WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON WITH THEIR, Y'KNOW, BODIES.
YOU PLAYER!

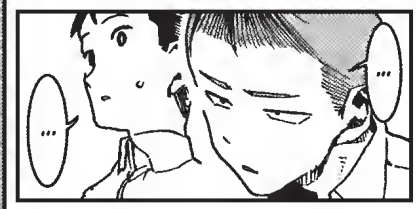
OH.
MR. VICE-PRINCIPAL...
HI...
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SUCH A HELP TO OUR DEMI-HUMAN STUDENTS.
BUT YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO OVEREXERT YOURSELF ON THEIR BEHALF.
...
HRM.
R—
RIGHT...
BE SURE YOU ATTEND TO YOUR HUMAN STUDENTS AS WELL...

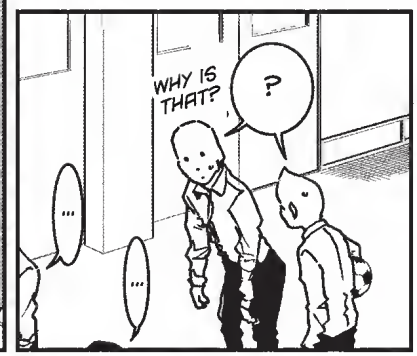

THEN *WHY DO THE DEMI-HUMANS RELY EXCLUSIVELY ON HIM?*


HEY.
I THINK TETSU-SENSEI DOES GREAT WITH THE HUMAN STUDENTS.
I MEAN, UH, SIR.

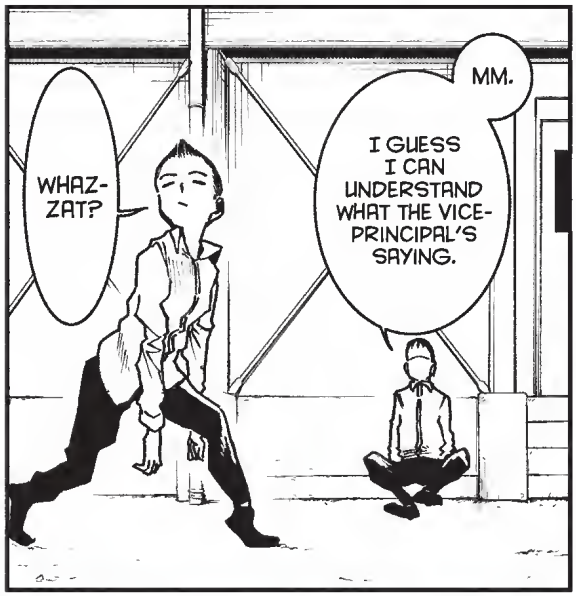

...YOU DO TOO MUCH FOR THEM, TAKAHASHI-SENSEI.
IF YOU CAN RESTRAIN YOURSELF...
... THE DEMI-HUMANS WILL NATURALLY FIND OTHERS TO HELP THEM.


?
WELL...
UH...

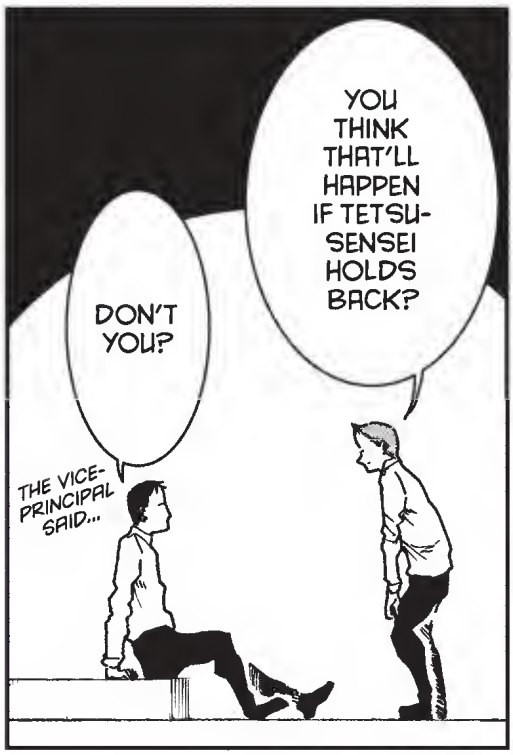

...
...

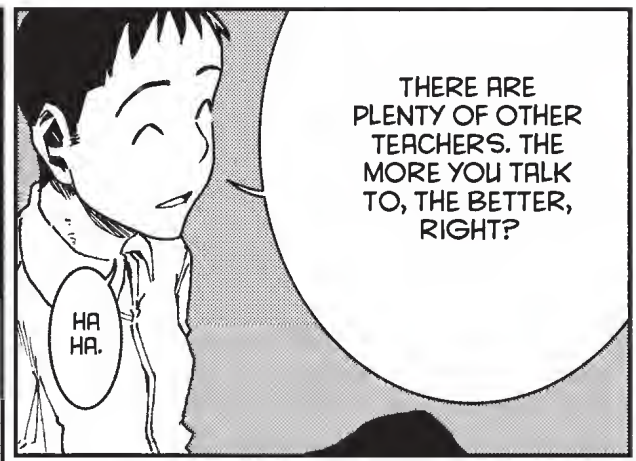

?
WHY IS THAT?
...
...

IS IT NOT MORE NATURAL TO ADDRESS THEIR WORRIES THIS WAY?
THEY MAY EVEN FIND IT EASIER THAN ALWAYS COMING TO THE SAME PERSON.
...
MAY-BE...
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
...
...

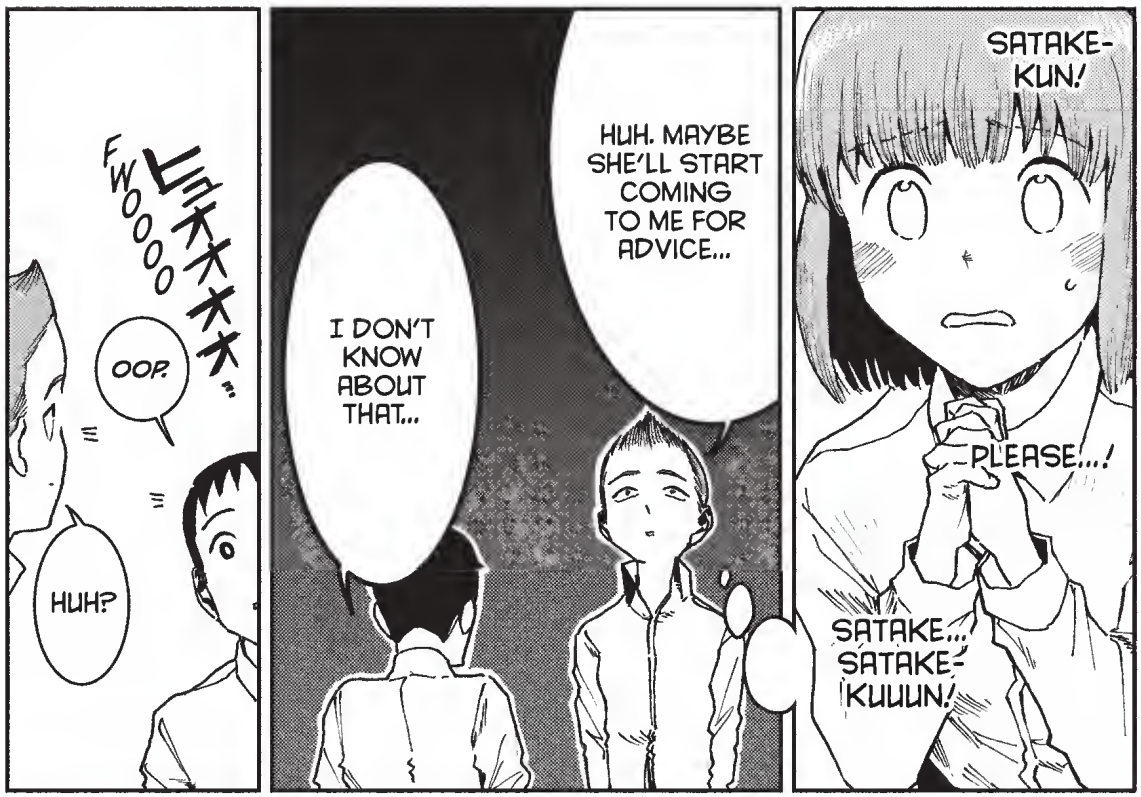

WHAZ-ZAT?
MM.
I GUESS I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT THE VICE-PRINCIPAL'S SAYING.

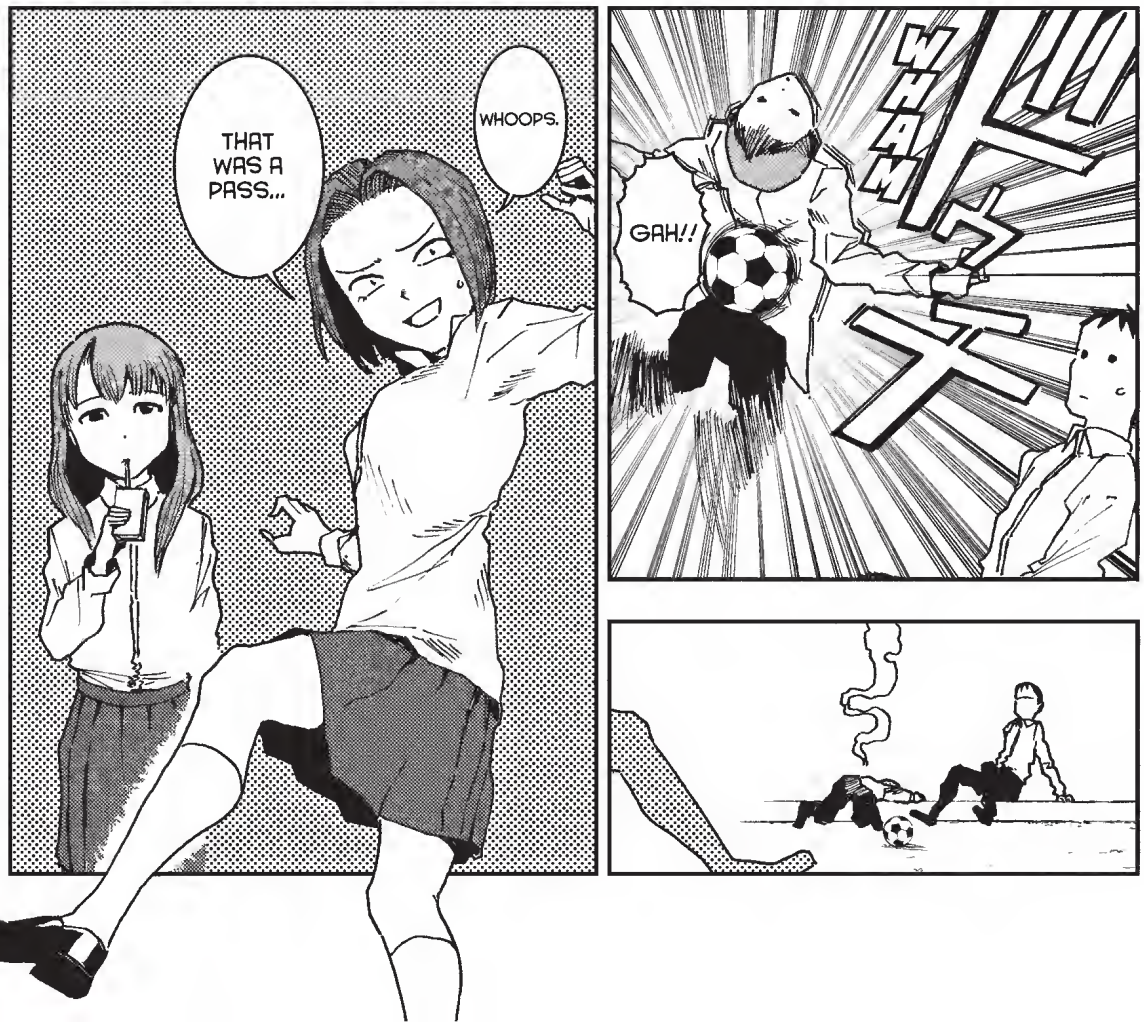
YAH!
BAP
ボウ!!

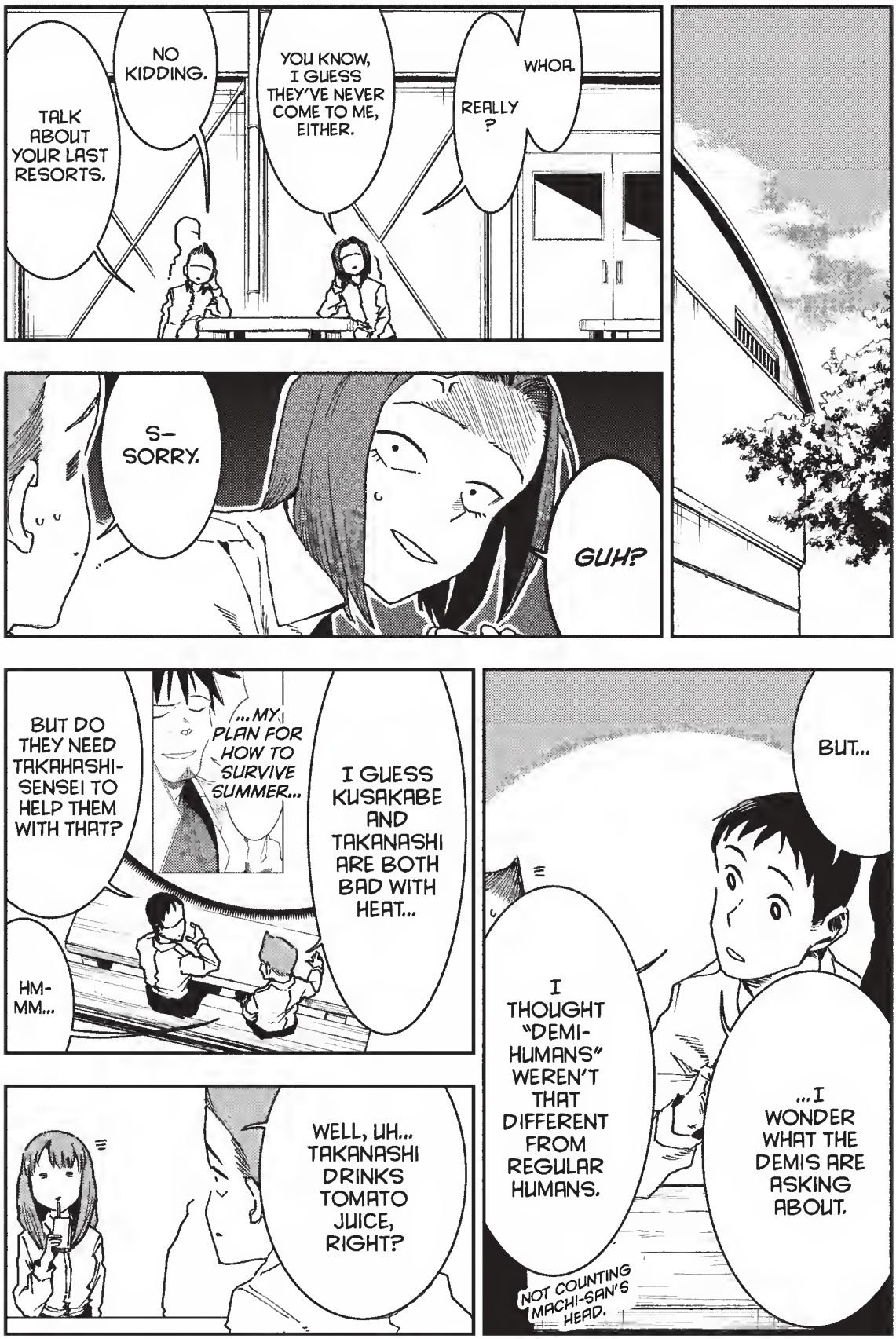

YOU THINK THAT'LL HAPPEN IF TETSU-SENSEI HOLDS BACK?
DON'T YOU?
THE VICE-PRINCIPAL SAID...

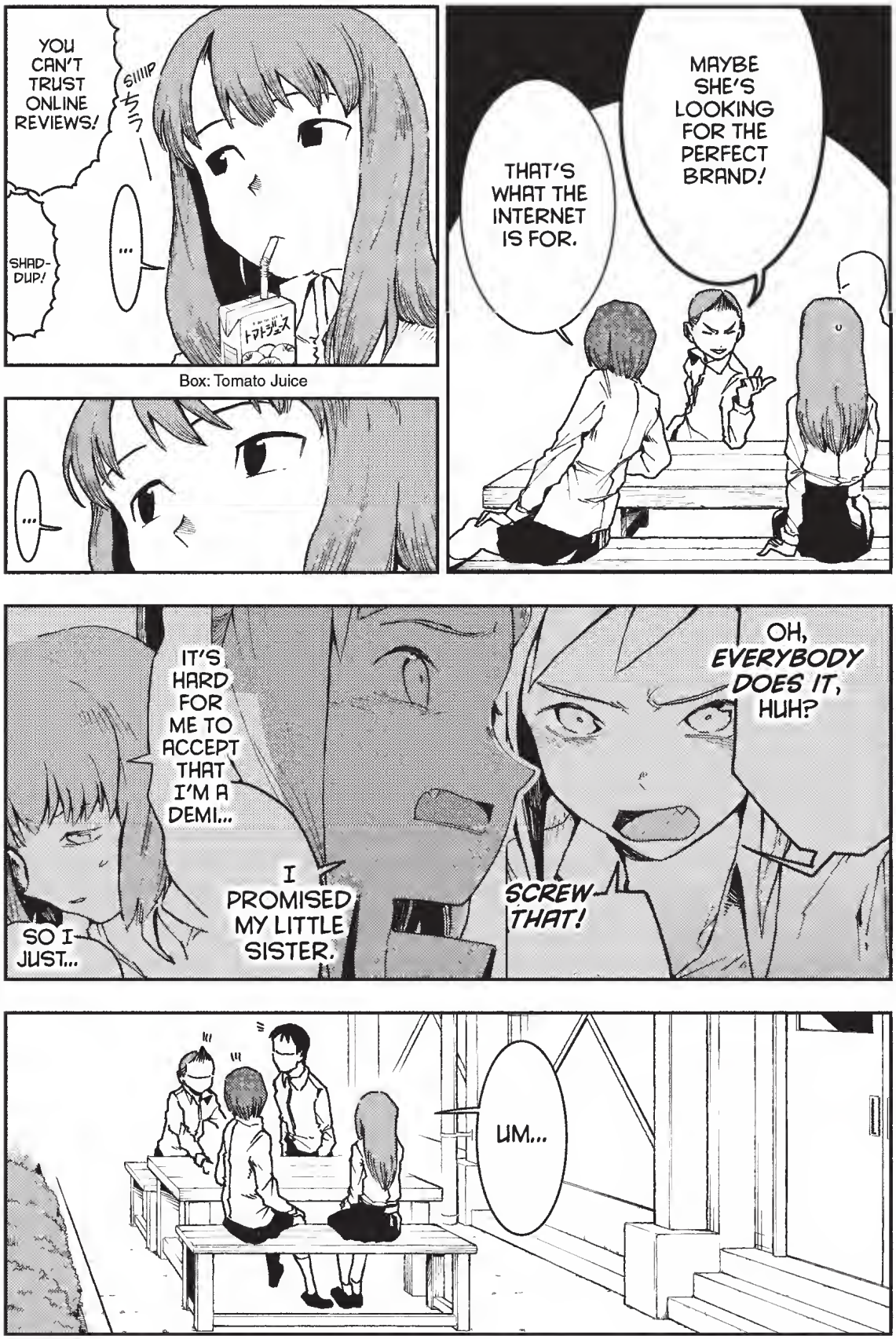

THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER TEACHERS. THE MORE YOU TALK TO, THE BETTER, RIGHT?
HA HA.

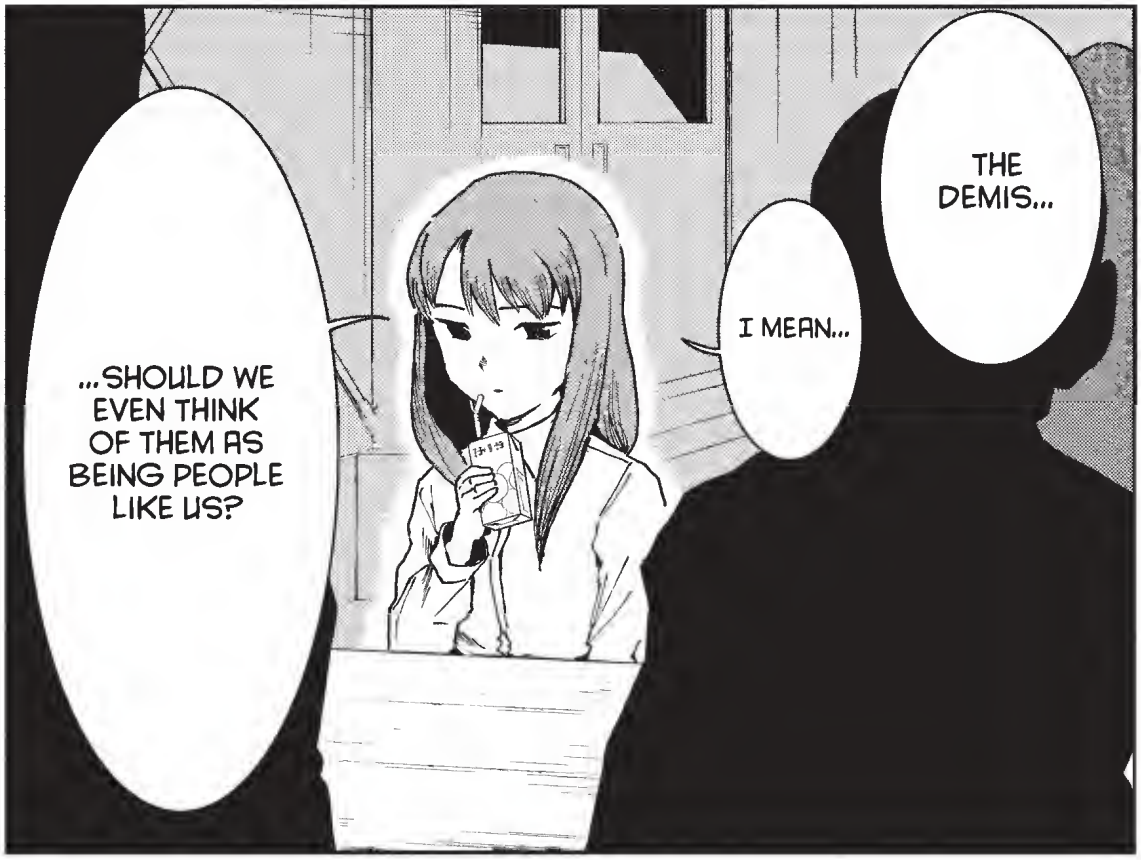
...

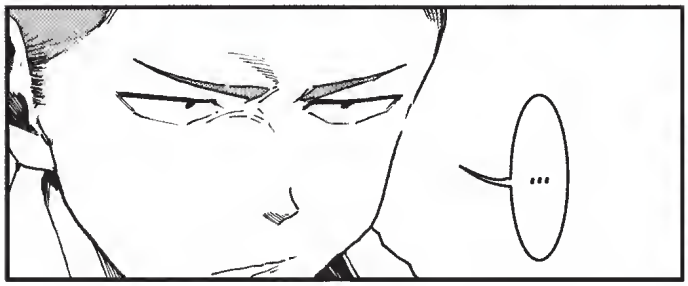

SATAKE-KUN!
-PLEASE...!
SATAKE... SATAKE-KUUUN!
HUH. MAYBE SHE'LL START COMING TO ME FOR ADVICE...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...
FWOOOO
OOP.
HUH?

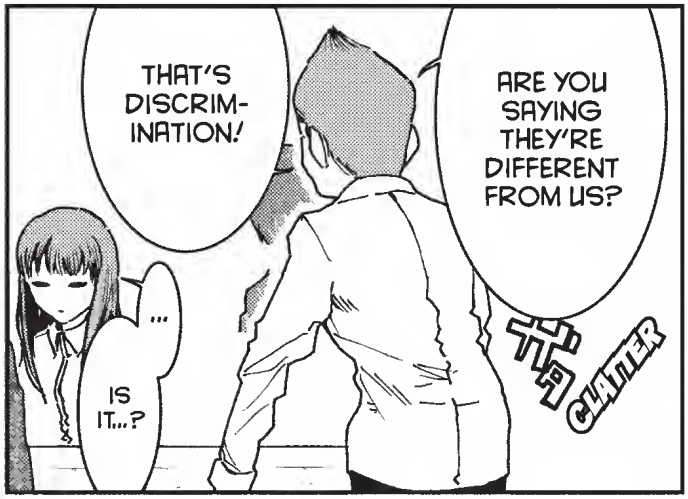

WHAM
GAH!!
WHOOPS.
THAT WAS A PASS...

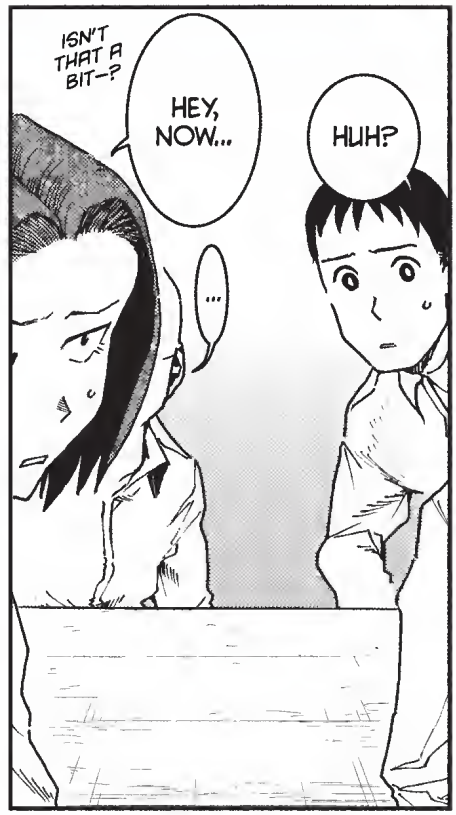

TALK ABOUT YOUR LAST RESORTS.
NO KIDDING.
YOU KNOW, I GUESS THEY'VE NEVER COME TO ME, EITHER.
WHOA. REALLY?
S— SORRY.
GUH?
BUT DO THEY NEED TAKAHASHI-SENSEI TO HELP THEM WITH THAT?
...MY PLAN FOR HOW TO SURVIVE SUMMER...
I GUESS KUSAKABE AND TAKANASHI ARE BOTH BAD WITH HEAT...
HM-MM...
BUT...
I THOUGHT "DEMI-HUMANS" WEREN'T THAT DIFFERENT FROM REGULAR HUMANS.
NOT COUNTING MACHI-SAN'S HEAD.
...I WONDER WHAT THE DEMIS ARE ASKING ABOUT.
WELL, UH... TAKANASHI DRINKS TOMATO JUICE, RIGHT?

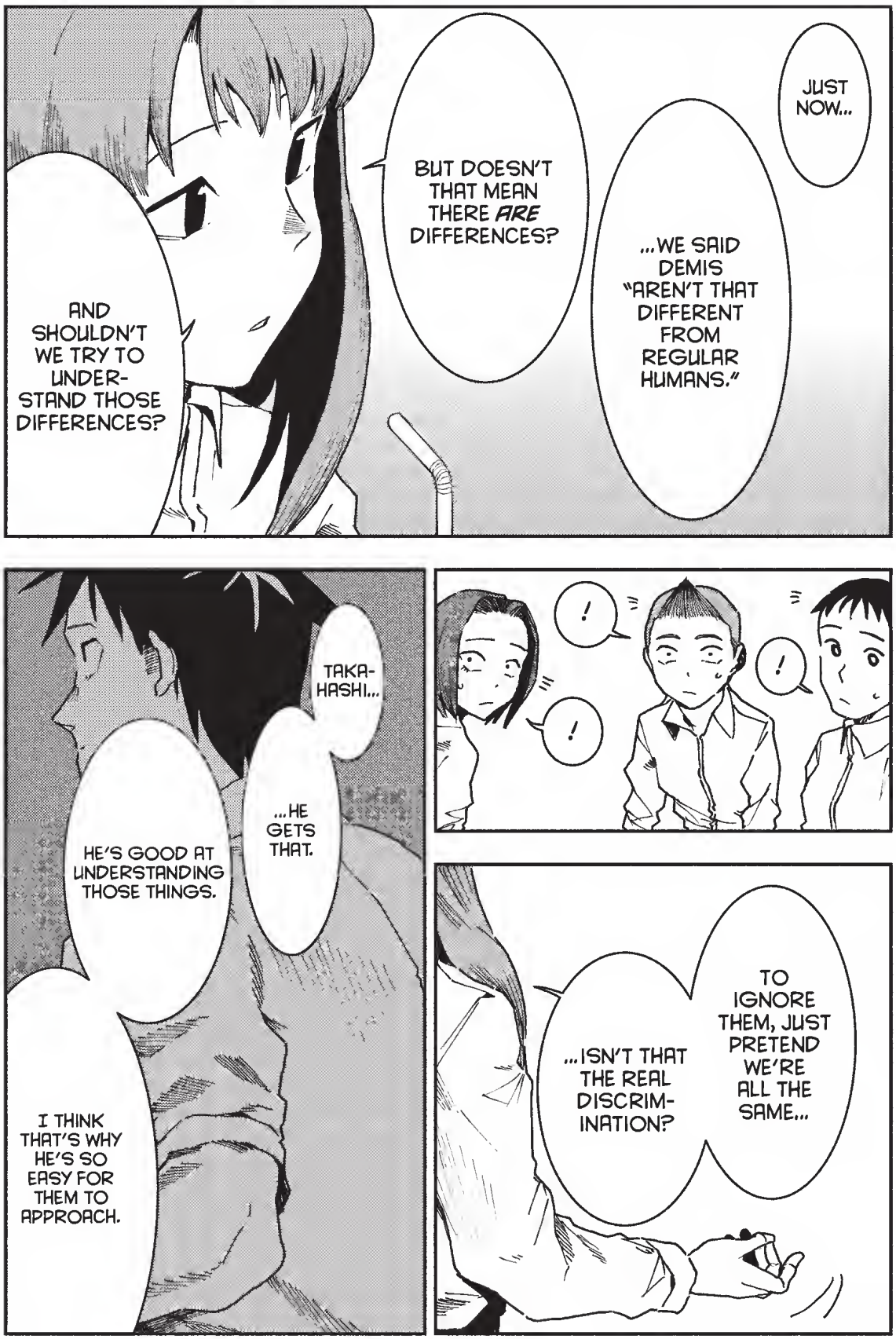

YOU CAN'T TRUST ONLINE REVIEWS!
SHAD-DUP!
...
MAYBE SHE'S LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT BRAND!
THAT'S WHAT THE INTERNET IS FOR.
Box: Tomato Juice
...
OH, EVERYBODY DOES IT, HUH?
SCREW THAT!
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO ACCEPT THAT I'M A DEMI...
I PROMISED MY LITTLE SISTER.
SO I JUST...
UM...

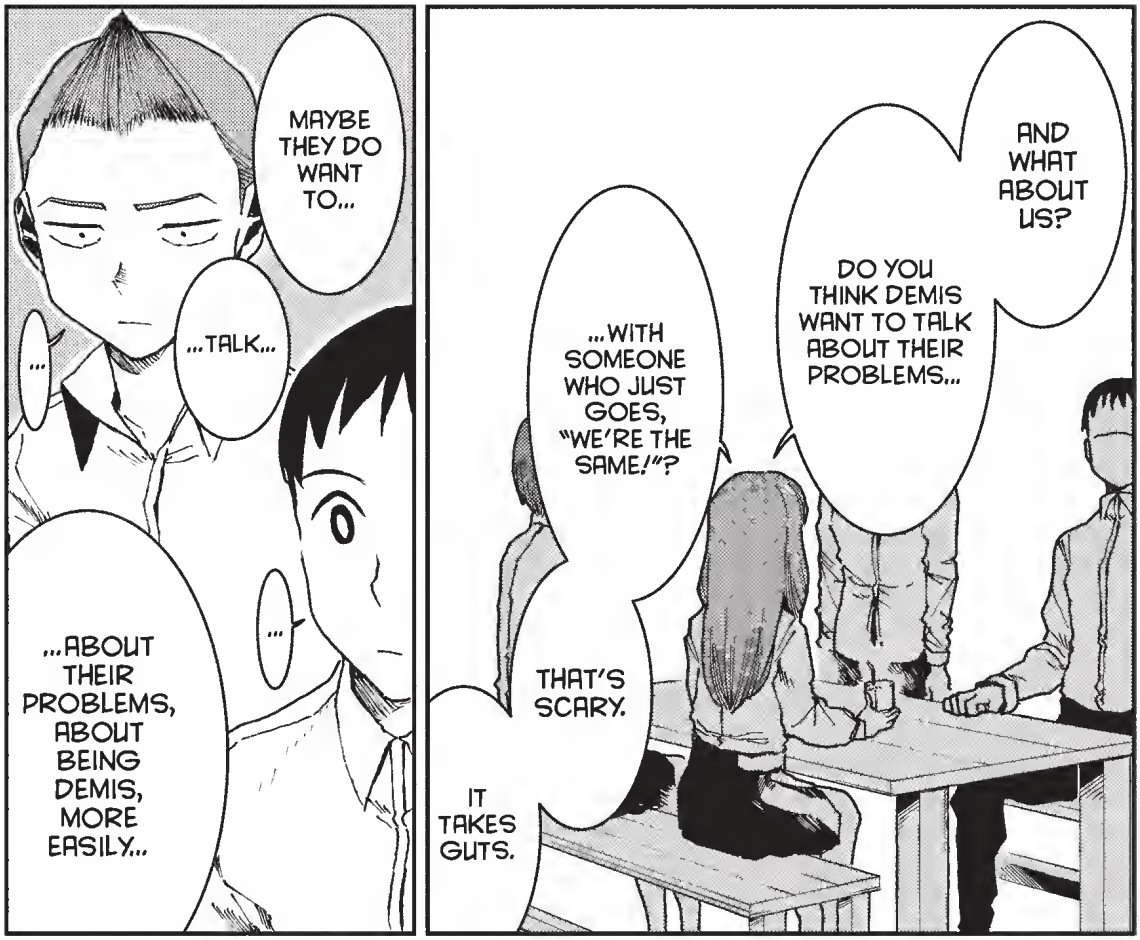

THE DEMIS...
I MEAN...
...SHOULD WE EVEN THINK OF THEM AS BEING PEOPLE LIKE US?

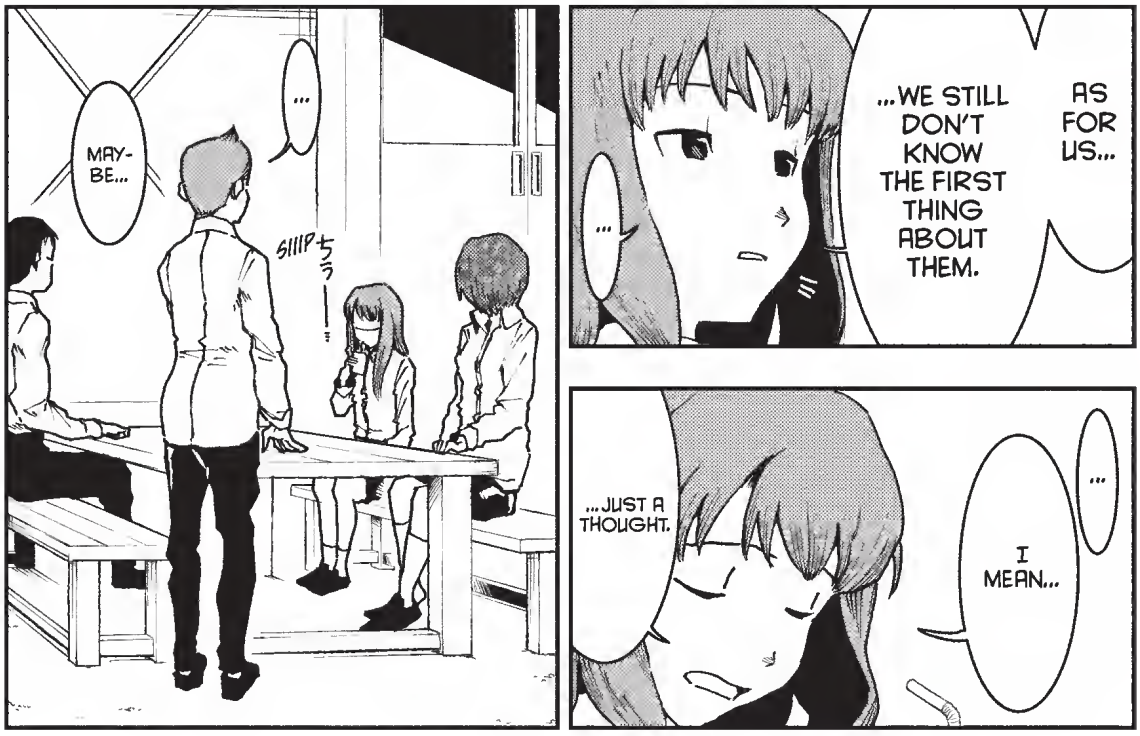

...

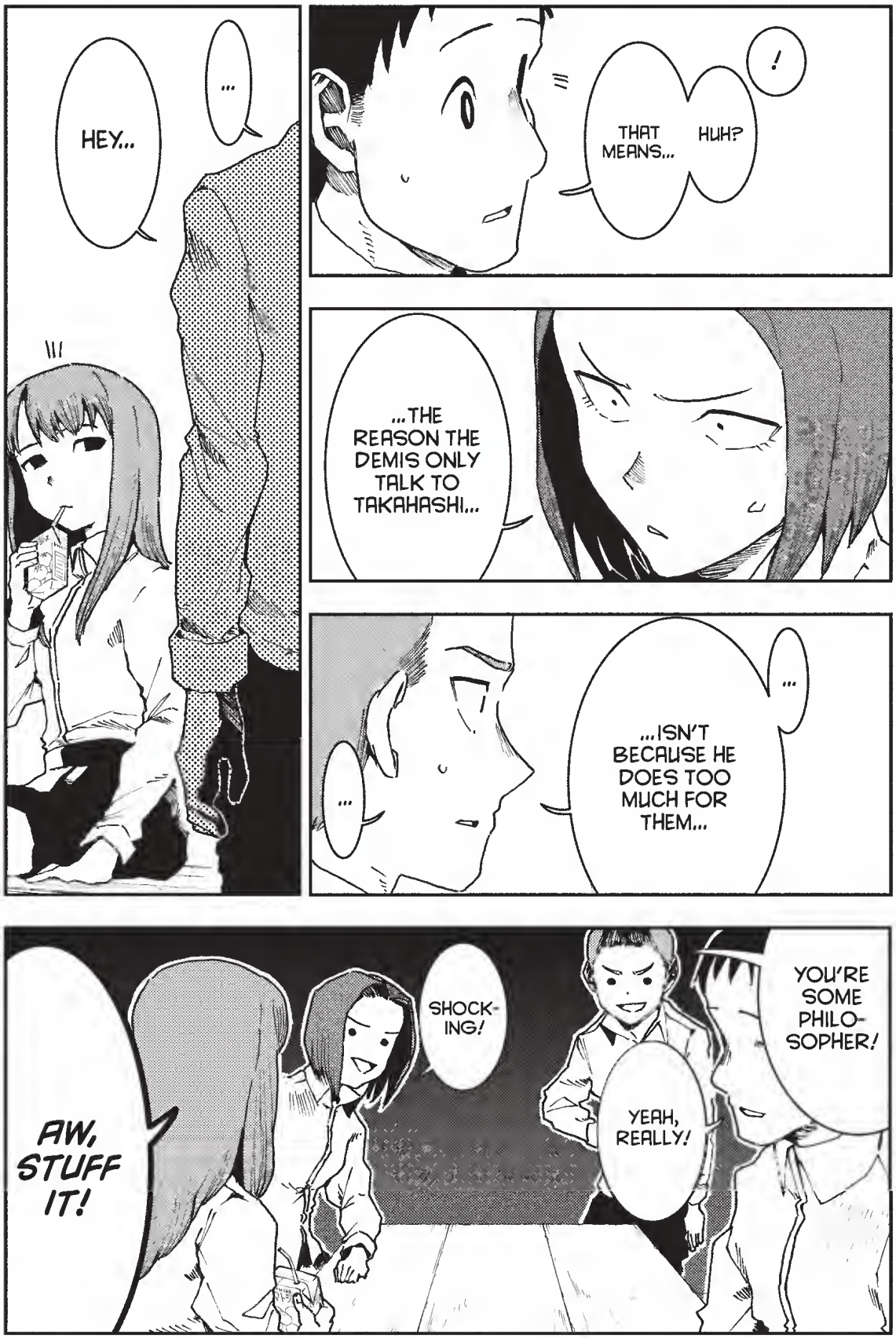

ARE YOU SAYING THEY'RE DIFFERENT FROM US?
THAT'S DISCRIM-INATION!
...
IS IT...?
GLITTER


ISN'T THAT A BIT—?
HEY, NOW...
HUH?
...


JUST NOW...
...WE SAID DEMIS "AREN'T THAT DIFFERENT FROM REGULAR HUMANS."
BUT DOESN'T THAT MEAN THERE *ARE* DIFFERENCES?
AND SHOULDN'T WE TRY TO UNDER-STAND THOSE DIFFERENCES?
!
!
!
TO IGNORE THEM, JUST PRETEND WE'RE ALL THE SAME...
...ISN'T THAT THE REAL DISCRIM-INATION?
TAKA-HASHI...
...HE GETS THAT.
HE'S GOOD AT UNDERSTANDING THOSE THINGS.
I THINK THAT'S WHY HE'S SO EASY FOR THEM TO APPROACH.

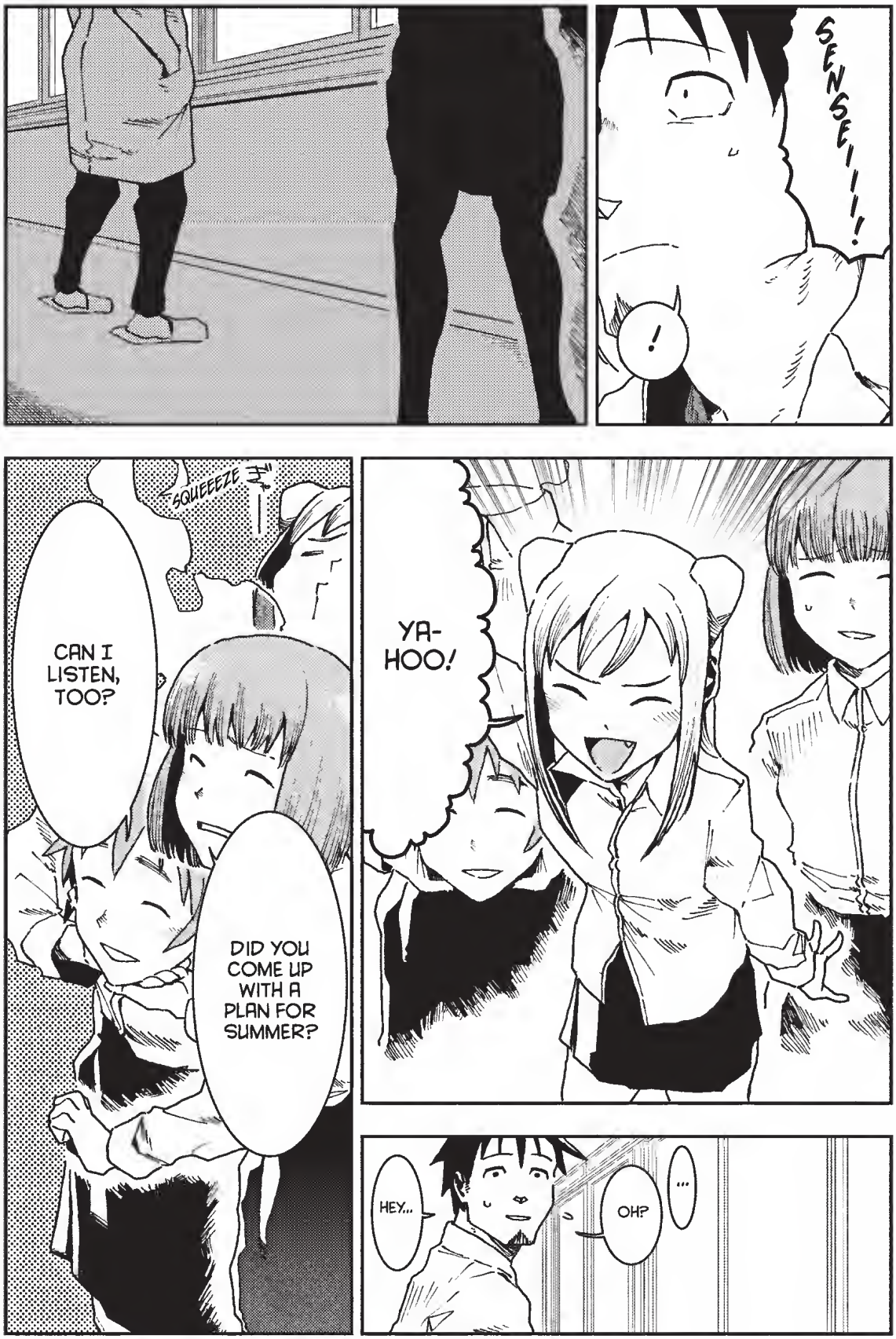

MAYBE THEY DO WANT TO...
...TALK...
...
...ABOUT THEIR PROBLEMS, ABOUT BEING DEMIS, MORE EASILY...
AND WHAT ABOUT US?
DO YOU THINK DEMIS WANT TO TALK ABOUT THEIR PROBLEMS...
...WITH SOMEONE WHO JUST GOES, "WE'RE THE SAME!"?
THAT'S SCARY.
IT TAKES GUTS.


...
MAY-BE...
SIIIP ちゅー
...
AS FOR US...
...WE STILL DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT THEM.
...
I MEAN...
...JUST A THOUGHT.


HEY...
...
THAT MEANS...
HUH?
!
...THE REASON THE DEMIS ONLY TALK TO TAKAHASHI...
...ISN'T BECAUSE HE DOES TOO MUCH FOR THEM...
...
...
AW, STUFF IT!
SHOCK-ING!
YEAH, REALLY!
YOU'RE SOME PHILO-SOPHER!

I'D NEVER HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT THIS STUFF...
...IF THERE WEREN'T DEMIS AROUND US.
...
BUT...
TOMATO JUICE
...
YEAH...
SIIIIIP
ズッ
MAYBE WE CAN ASK TETSU-SENSEI...
...ABOUT ALL THIS.
YEAH.
BUT HE SEEMED A LITTLE MORE UPSET THAN USUAL, DIDN'T HE?
IT'S FINE.
TETSU-SENSEI'S A BIG BOY.
...
...
YOU THINK?

BEING TOO GROWN UP..
...CAN MAKE YOU DO THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO.
DOING TOO MUCH...
...
...
THINGS
MPIRES AND
SNOW WOMEN
SHOULD BE
CAREFUL OF
IN SUMMER
TETSUO
TAKAHASHI


SENSEI!!
!
SQUEEEZE ぎゅー
CAN I LISTEN, TOO?
DID YOU COME UP WITH A PLAN FOR SUMMER?
YA-HOO!
HEY...
OH?
...

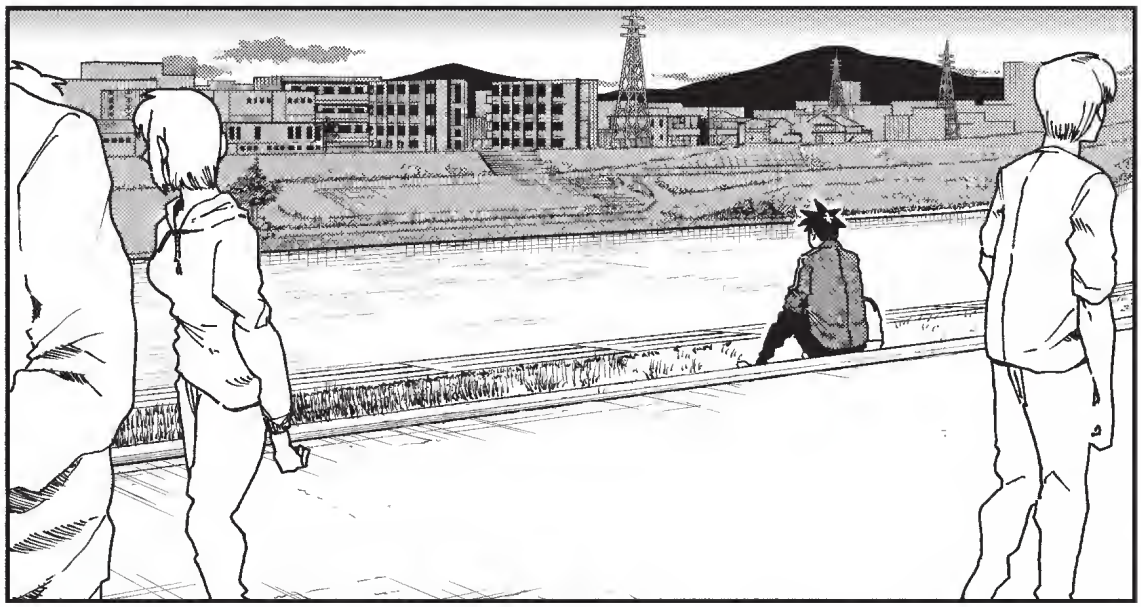
YEAH...
OH.
!
...
I...
...
NO.
WAIT...
...

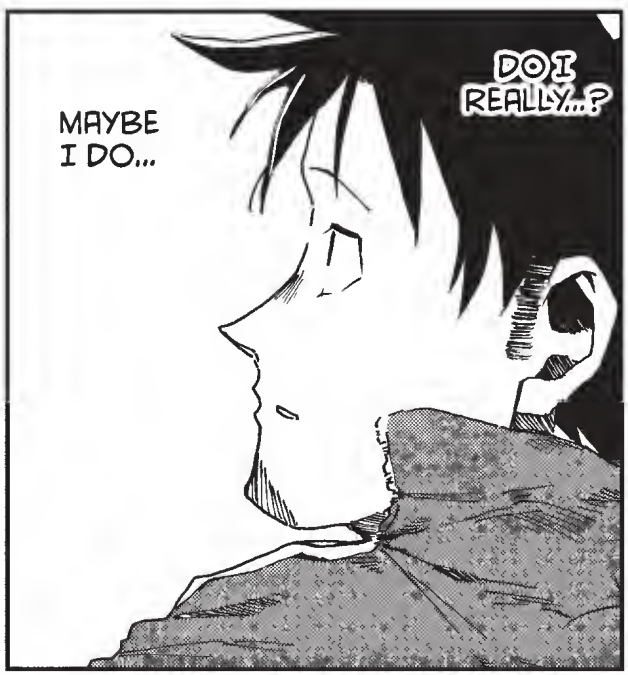
...SORRY.
NEXT TIME...
...OKAY?
?
?

...
I SEE!
...AND THAT'S THE STORY.
GOT IT!
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
THANKS, SATA-KKEE!
...
"SATA-KKEE"...
IS THAT A NICK-NAME?!
HUH? HUH?
SOUNDS LIKE SOME MONSTER!
YEAH... OH...
OTA
KIMURA
IMORI
LUCKY GUY...

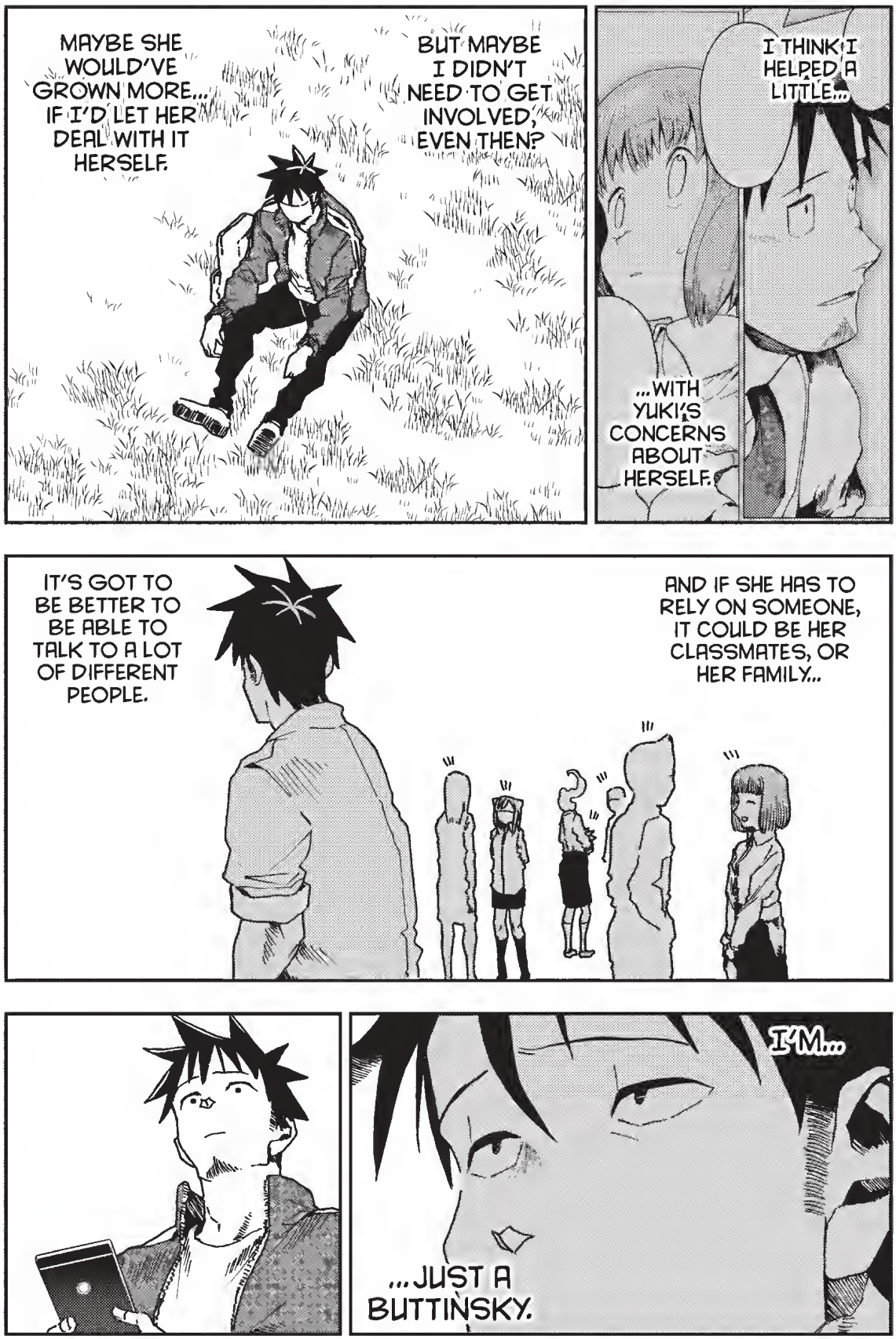
INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

Chapter 30: Demis Want to Help





WE SAY...
...DEMIS!
...EVEN THOUGH IT WAS KIND OF EMBARRASSING.
I STARTED OUT JUST INTERESTED IN DEMI-HUMANS...
TO SUPPORT THEM.
AND I JUST WANTED TO HELP...
...I REALIZED DEMIS HAVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS.
BUT OVER TIME...
THOSE GIRLS... THEY'RE MORE GROWN-UP THAN I THOUGHT.
BUT MAYBE THE DEMIS DON'T NEED ME.


MAYBE SHE WOULD'VE GROWN MORE... IF I'D LET HER DEAL WITH IT HERSELF.
BUT MAYBE I DIDN'T NEED TO GET INVOLVED, EVEN THEN?
I THINK I HELPED A LITTLE...
...WITH YUKI'S CONCERNS ABOUT HERSELF.
IT'S GOT TO BE BETTER TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO A LOT OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
AND IF SHE HAS TO RELY ON SOMEONE, IT COULD BE HER CLASSMATES, OR HER FAMILY...
I'M...
...JUST A BUTTINSKY.

...FROM AN ACADEMIC VIEWPOINT.
HE WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT DEMIS...
SOMA...
FROM: SOMA >
TO: TETSUO TAKAHASHI >
HEY!
YESTERDAY, 19:50
I FLOATED THE IDEA OF DOING RESEARCH WITH MACHI-KUN WITH THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR, BUT HE GAVE ME A PRETTY DOUR LOOK. HA! HA! HA.
...HELP CHANGE THE WORLD ONE DAY.
IT MIGHT EVEN...
I'M SURE THAT WOULD HELP THEM IN THE LONG RUN.
...TO HELP THE DEMIS.
THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY...
...BE A SCHOLAR INSTEAD, GET SOME DISTANCE...
I COULD...
MAYBE I'VE GOTTEN TOO CLOSE TO THEM AS A TEACHER.

A TEXT...
...!
IT'S FROM HIKARI.
DING! ♪
?!
RECEIVED
FROM: HIKARI TAKANASHI >
TO:TETSUO TAKAHASHI >
★☆★VIDEO LETTER★☆★
TODAY, 18:21
\(≧▽≦*)/
IMG.2774.MOV
"VIDEO LETTER"?
SHE MUST MEAN THIS MOVIE...
IT'S HUGE!
...
OKAY!
WE'RE ROLLING!
WHAT?! ALREADY ?!
HA HA HA!
SNICKER
...

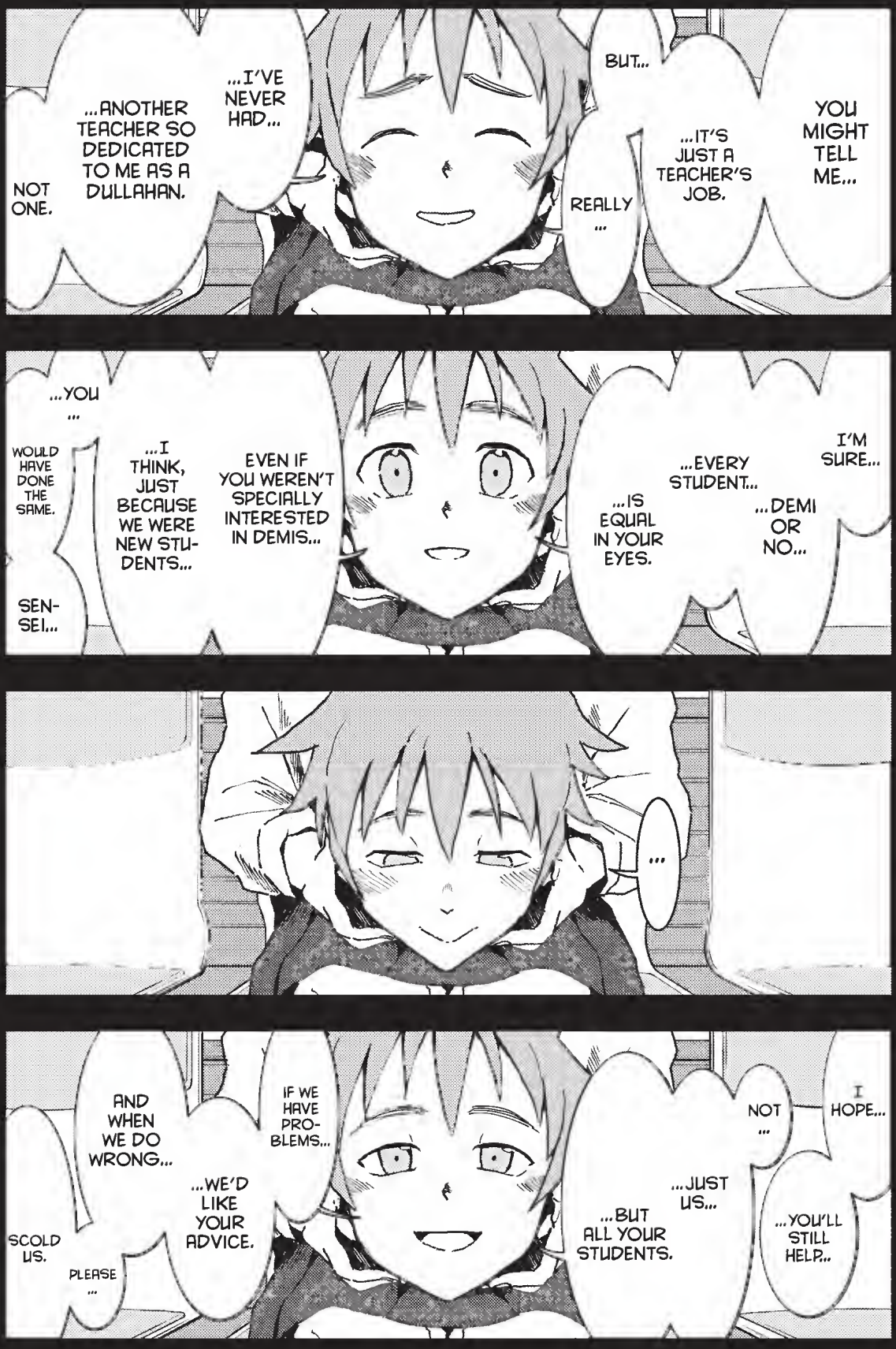
I...
I'M NOT READY...
OKAY, YUKKII FIRST! THANK SENSEI FOR ALL HIS HELP!
NOT READY...
ポイン
POING
...
AND WE'RE OFF! ACTION!
N— NOT...

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.
AH,
UMM...
TAKA-HASHI-SENSEI?
IT'S YUKI.
KUSA-KABE.
UM... YOU MIGHT...
YOU MIGHT THINK YOU'RE TOO...
...TOO INVOLVED WITH US.
THAT YOU DO TOO MUCH.
...UH.
Y—
LIKE WHEN I ASKED YOU ABOUT MY NATURE.
MAYBE YOU THINK SOME TIME MIGHT HAVE HELPED ME.
MIGHT EVEN HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR ME...
AND...
...I GUESS THAT'S POSSIBLE.
...

I JUST MEAN, YOU CAN THINK OF ALL KINDS OF POSSIBILITIES...!
I DON'T MEAN THAT'S WHAT YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE!
OH!
NO!
UM...
I MEAN...
UH...
YOU HELPED ME STOP WORRYING ABOUT MY BODY IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME...
ONE—
—THING I KNOW FOR SURE!
...TO TALK TO YOU!
I'M VERY GRATEFUL THAT I WAS ABLE...
I—
I'M—!
...TO BE FRIENDS WITH THEM!
IT'S GIVEN ME SO MUCH MORE TIME...
THAT'S WHY I WAS ABLE TO GET ICE CREAM WITH THE OTHERS...!

SO WHAT I MEAN IS...
UHHH...
...
...
OKAY! MACCHII NEXT!
?
I'M DRAWING A BLANK...

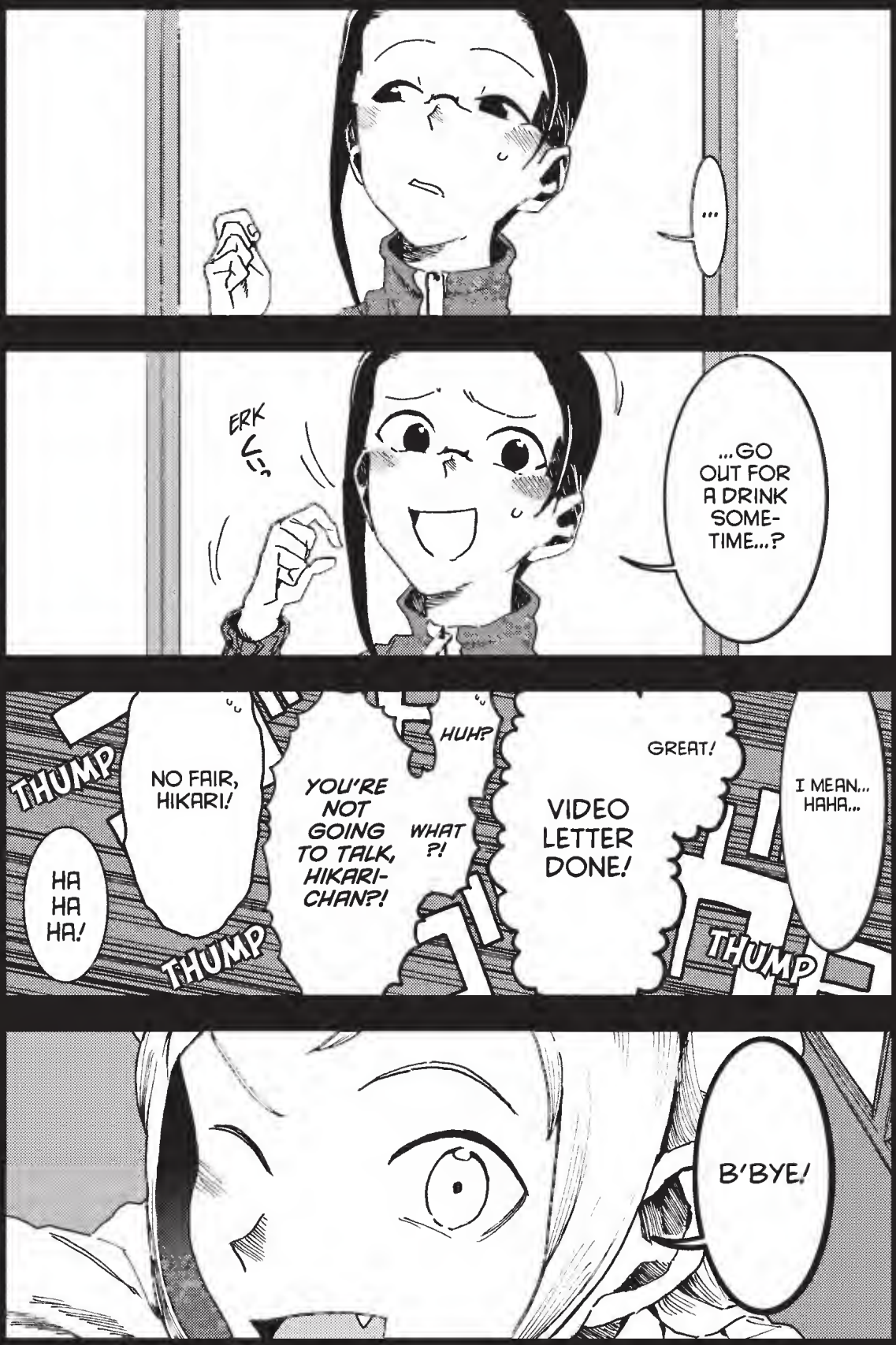
HELLO!
HOW ARE YOU...?
TAKA-HASHI-SENSEI.
IT'S MACHI!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
...OF ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.
AND THAT'S...
...BE-CAUSE ...
...LIKE A VERY LONG TIME.
BUT IT FEELS...
I HAVEN'T KNOWN YOU FOR VERY LONG...
I NEVER KNEW.
...ABOUT BEING A DUL-LAHAN.
AND I REALIZED HOW GOOD IT FELT TO HAVE SOMEONE I COULD TALK TO...
...YOU LISTENED SO CAREFULLY TO ME.
YOU KNOW ...
...FROM THE FIRST TIME WE SPOKE...
...YOU GAVE ME THE SCOLDING I NEEDED.
WHEN I GOT TOO EXCITED...
...JUST KIND.
AND YOU'RE NOT...


...I'VE NEVER HAD...
...ANOTHER TEACHER SO DEDICATED TO ME AS A DULLAHAN.
NOT ONE.
BUT...
YOU MIGHT TELL ME...
...IT'S JUST A TEACHER'S JOB.
REALLY ...
...YOU ...
WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME.
SEN-SEI...
...I THINK, JUST BECAUSE WE WERE NEW STU-DENTS...
EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T SPECIALLY INTERESTED IN DEMIS...
I'M SURE...
...EVERY STUDENT...
...IS EQUAL IN YOUR EYES.
...DEMI OR NO...
...
AND WHEN WE DO WRONG...
SCOLD US.
PLEASE ...
...WE'D LIKE YOUR ADVICE.
IF WE HAVE PRO-BLEMS...
NOT ...
I HOPE...
...JUST US...
...BUT ALL YOUR STUDENTS.
...YOU'LL STILL HELP...

...AT THE SCIENCE LAB...
I'LL... ...SEE YOU AGAIN...
CLAP
THANK YOU AGAIN, SO MUCH.
Y-YOU THINK SO...?
MACCHII! WHAT A SPEECH! TOP MARKS!
OOP!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO APPLAUD...
CLAP CLAP
AND HERE I WAS TRYING SO HARD TO KEEP QUIET...!
BAH!
SHEESH.
WHAT?! ME, TOO?!
OKAY! NOW SAKKII!

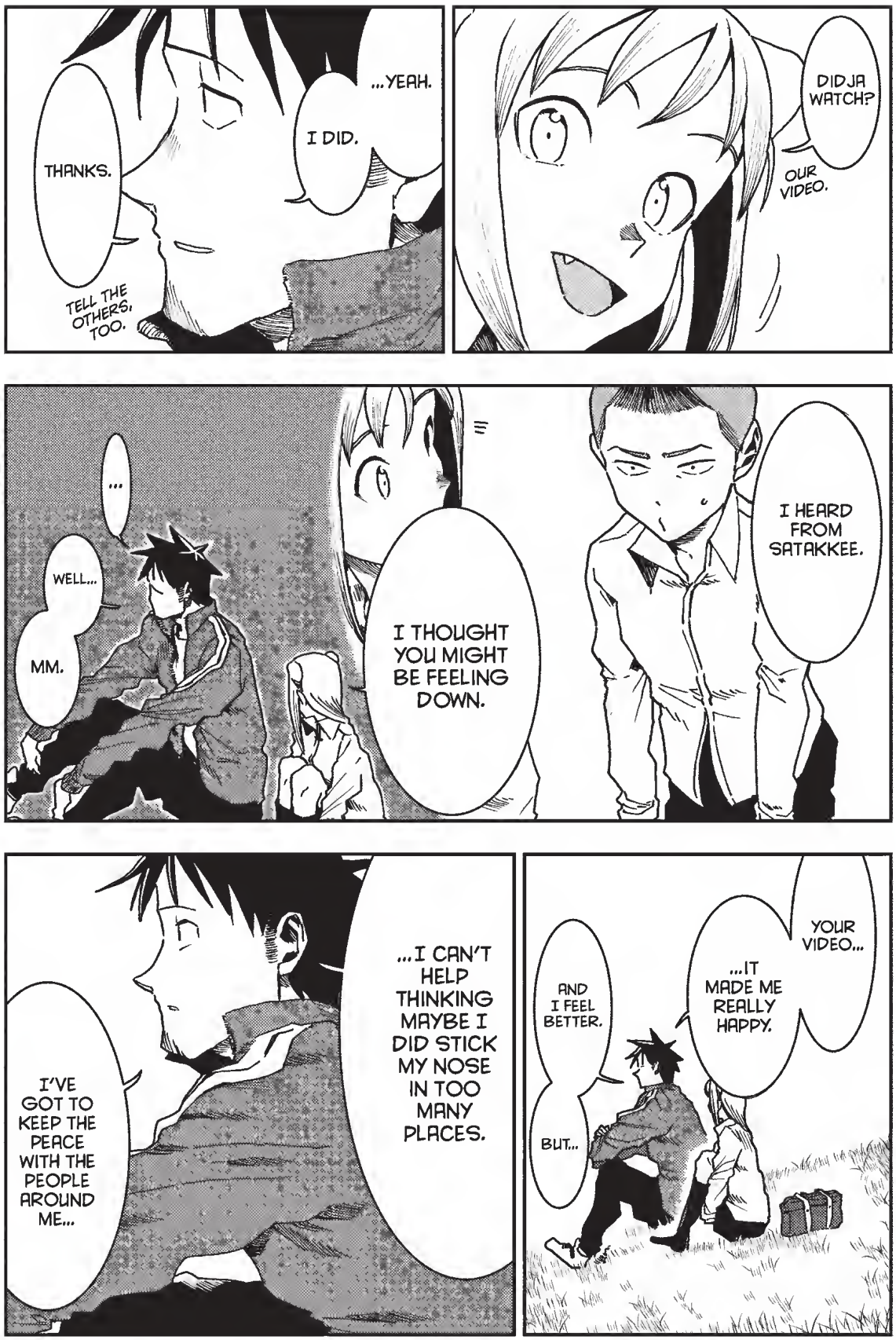
...
AHEM
UH,
TAKA-HASHI-SENSEI.
IT'S ME, SATO.
WORKIN' HARD?
THE GIRLS ARE THE STARS HERE. I'LL KEEP IT SHORT...
HA HA HA.
TAKA-HASHI-SENSEI ...
I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON YOU...
...BOTH AS A TEACHER...
...AND AS A SUC-CUBUS.
YOU TAKE EVERYTHING VERY SERIOUSLY...
...AND I REALLY RESPECT THAT.
I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL THE HELP YOU'VE GIVEN ME.
AND I HOPE...
...THAT GOING FOR-WARD...
...I CAN KEEP COUNTING ON YOU.

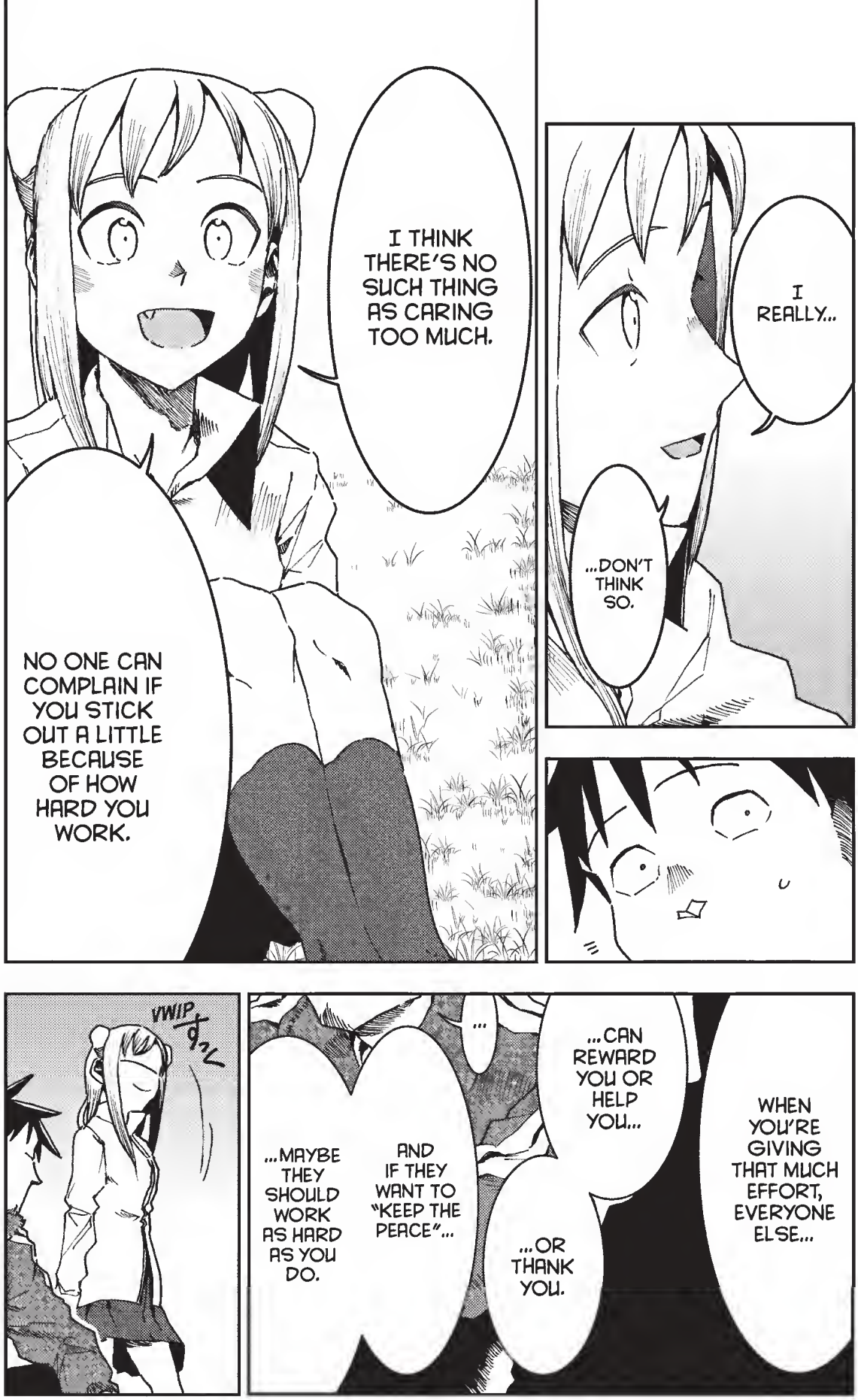
...
GEEZ, SO FORMAL...
IF...
I—
...YOU FIND YOURSELF WORRYING ABOUT ANYTHING...
WELL, I'M NEW, BUT...
AS YOUR COL-LEAGUE!
...I'M HERE FOR YOU.
PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO TALK TO ME!
YOU CAN CRY ON MY SHOUL-DER!
I'M SURE...
...THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE HARD FOR YOU TO TALK ABOUT, SO...
...
...
LET'S...


...
ERK
...GO OUT FOR A DRINK SOME-TIME...?
THUMP
NO FAIR, HIKARI!
HA HA HA!
THUMP
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TALK, HIKARI-CHAN?!
HUH?
WHAT?!
VIDEO LETTER DONE!
GREAT!
I MEAN... HAHA...
THUMP
B'BYE!

...
RUSTLE RUSTLE
SENSEIIII!
??!
YIKES!

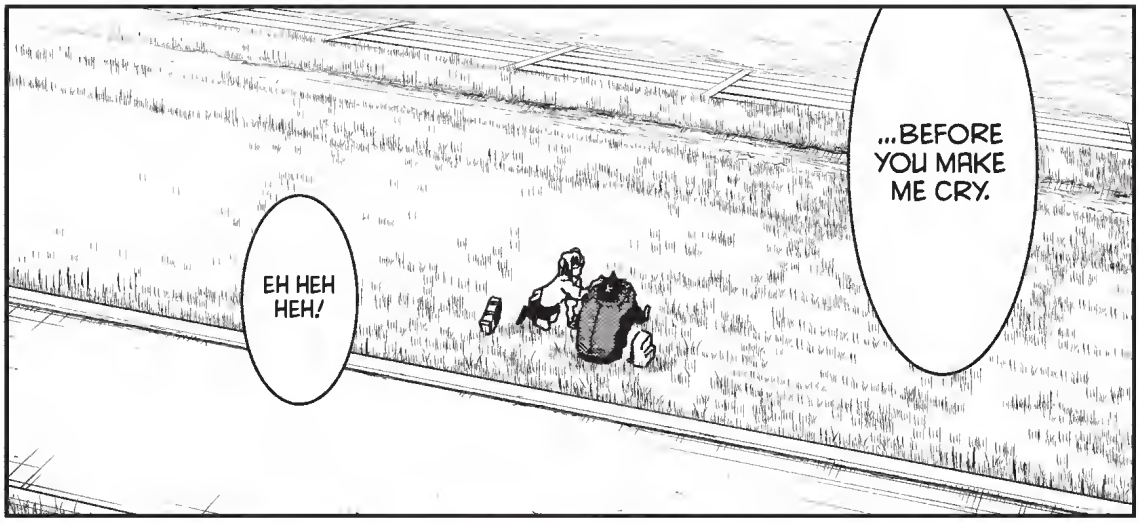
HI—
SMILE☆
HIKARI ?!
I—
YOU—
WHY ARE YOU—
AW, Y'KNOW.
I SENT THE VIDEO...
...BUT I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D SKIP IT 'CAUSE IT'S SO BIG.
I WAS JUST WONDERING ABOUT IT WHEN I SAW YOU.
FROM THE OTHER BANK.
THE OTHER BANK ...?
...
FSSSSHH ザアアア
...
アア...HHH
ANY-WAY!
HUP!
DON'T MIND ME.

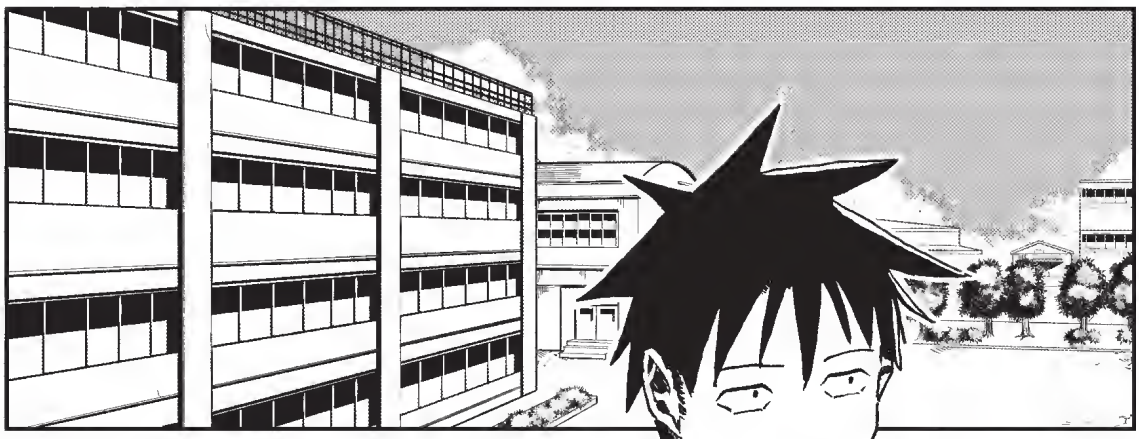

...YEAH.
I DID.
THANKS.
TELL THE OTHERS, TOO.
DIDJA WATCH?
OUR VIDEO.
I HEARD FROM SATAKKEE.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE FEELING DOWN.
...
WELL...
MM.
YOUR VIDEO...
...IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY.
AND I FEEL BETTER.
BUT...
...I CAN'T HELP THINKING MAYBE I DID STICK MY NOSE IN TOO MANY PLACES.
I'VE GOT TO KEEP THE PEACE WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND ME...


I THINK THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS CARING TOO MUCH.
NO ONE CAN COMPLAIN IF YOU STICK OUT A LITTLE BECAUSE OF HOW HARD YOU WORK.
I REALLY...
...DON'T THINK SO.
VWIP
...
...CAN REWARD YOU OR HELP YOU...
...OR THANK YOU.
WHEN YOU'RE GIVING THAT MUCH EFFORT, EVERYONE ELSE...
AND IF THEY WANT TO "KEEP THE PEACE"...
...MAYBE THEY SHOULD WORK AS HARD AS YOU DO.

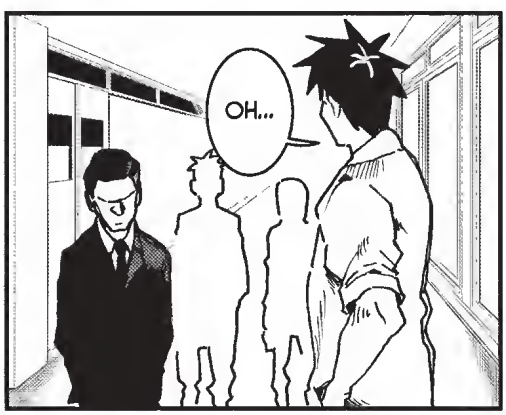
I'LL PROVE I CAN WORK...
...JUST AS HARD AS YOU!
SO I CAN PAY YOU, AND EVERYONE, BACK!
SENSEIIII!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR...
...ALL YOUR HARD WORK!

THINK OF IT AS A SECRET VIDEO LETTER.
TA-DA!
...
THERE, THERE.
STOP IT...


EH HEH HEH!
...BEFORE YOU MAKE ME CRY.

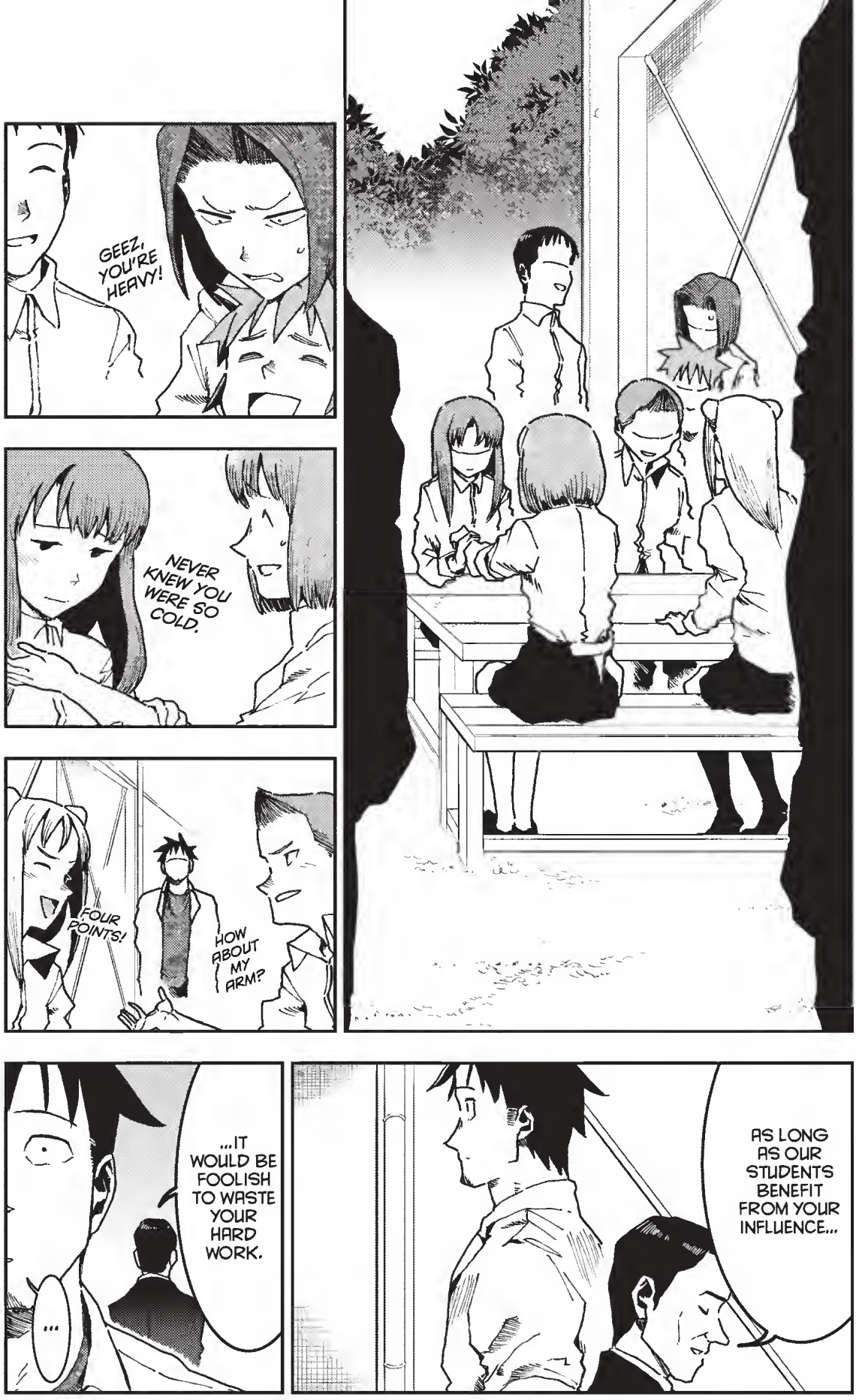


TAKA-HASHI-SENSEI.

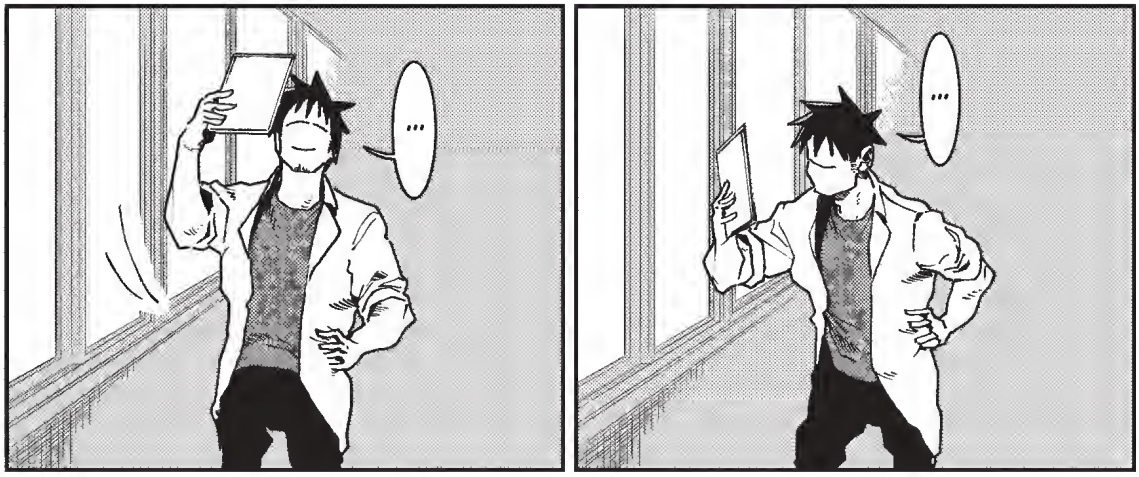

OH...

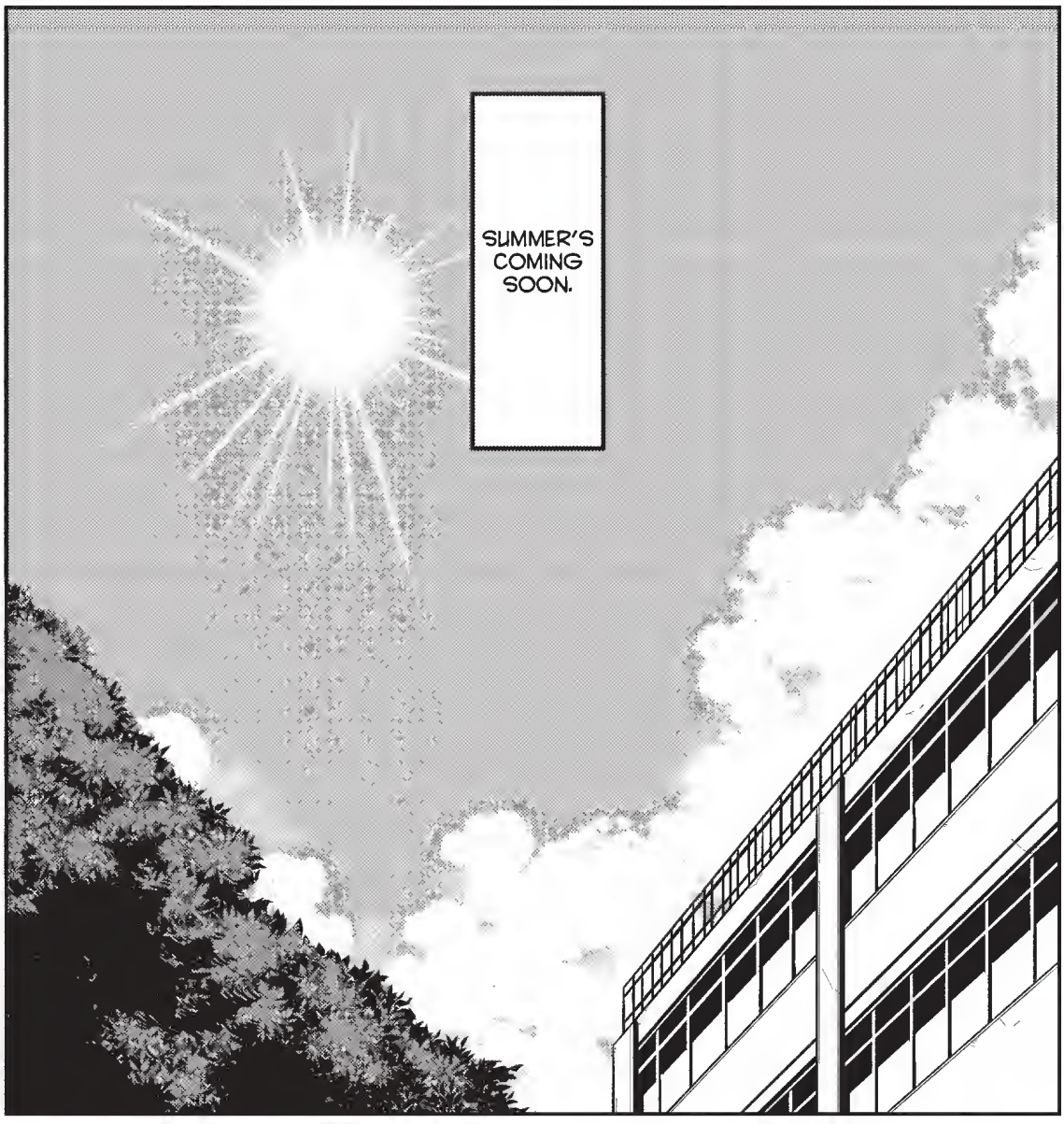
...

YESTER-DAY...
...I ASKED YOU TO THINK ABOUT THE WAY YOU INTERACT WITH OUR DEMI-HUMAN STUDENTS.
SIR!
ABOUT THAT...
MR. VICE-PRINCI-PAL!
PERFECT TIMING!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU...
AH.
AS DID I.
HUH?
I APOLOGIZE FOR MAKING A FUSS OVER A MINOR ISSUE.
CONSIDER THE MATTER SETTLED.
I...
HUH?
...
I WOULD BE GRATEFUL...
...IF YOU CONTINUED TO TREAT THEM WITH THE CARE YOU HAVE SHOWN THUS FAR.

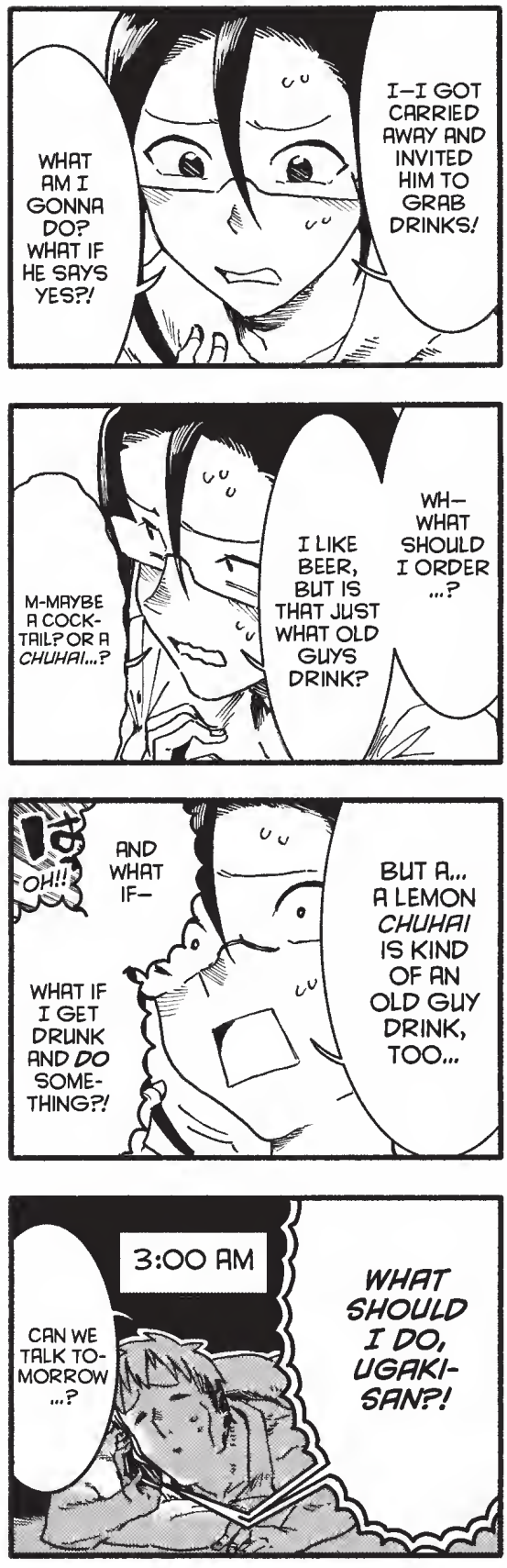

GEEZ, YOU'RE HEAVY!
NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SO COLD.
FOUR POINTS!
HOW ABOUT MY ARM?
...IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO WASTE YOUR HARD WORK.
...
AS LONG AS OUR STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM YOUR INFLUENCE...

SPRING–
MY NEW DEMI-FILLED LIFE...
...HAS BEEN VERY STIMU-LATING.
HA HA!
HOW DO THEY CHANGE?
WHAT DO THEY THINK?
AND THOSE WHO HAVE DEMIS IN THEIR LIVES...
WHAT DO YOU FEEL?
...HOW DO YOU LIVE?
WHEN YOU'RE A DEMI...
THINGS VAMPIRES AND SNOW WOMEN HOULD BE AREFUL OF N SUMMER
TETSUO TAKAHASHI
AND I'LL KEEP ON TALKING TO THEM.
I'LL KEEP FINDING OUT.





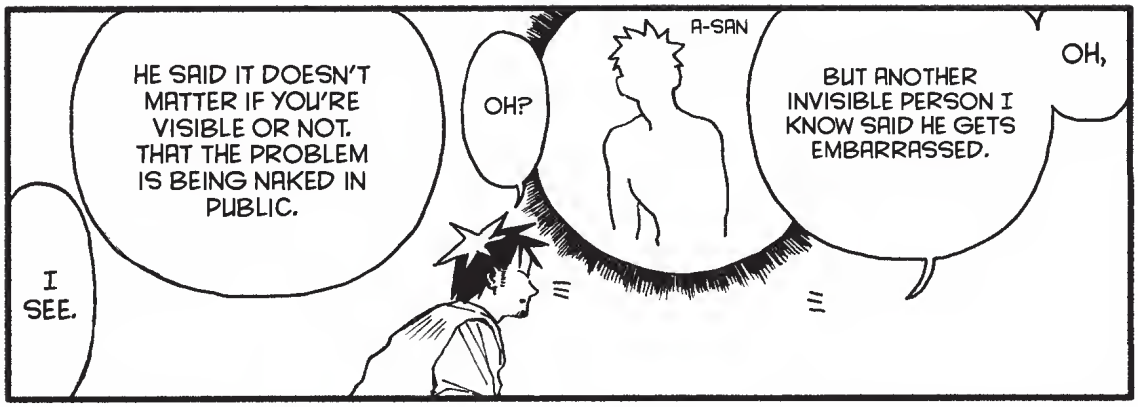
VOLUME 4/END

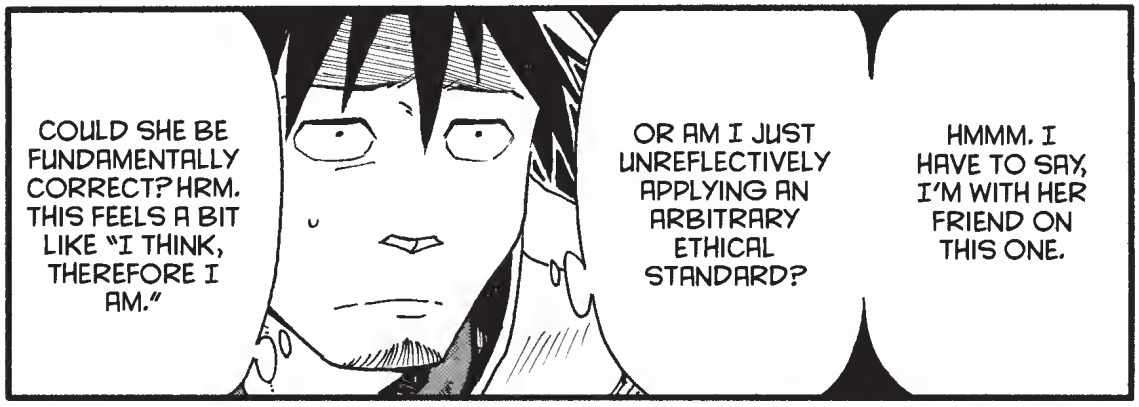

I—I GOT CARRIED AWAY AND INVITED HIM TO GRAB DRINKS!
WHAT AM I GONNA DO? WHAT IF HE SAYS YES?!
WH—WHAT SHOULD I ORDER ...?
I LIKE BEER, BUT IS THAT JUST WHAT OLD GUYS DRINK?
M-MAYBE A COCKTAIL? OR A *CHUHAI*...?
BUT A... A LEMON *CHUHAI* IS KIND OF AN OLD GUY DRINK, TOO...
AND WHAT IF—
OH!!
WHAT IF I GET DRUNK AND *DO* SOMETHING?!
3:00 AM
WHAT SHOULD I DO, UGAKI-SAN?!
CAN WE TALK TOMORROW ...?

INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

THE FOLLOWING BONUS CHAPTER, "OUT OF SIGHT—DOESN'T MIND," IS BASED ON THE WINNING ENTRY FROM THE "WE WANT MORE DEMIS!" CONTEST RUN BY NICONICO SEIGA.

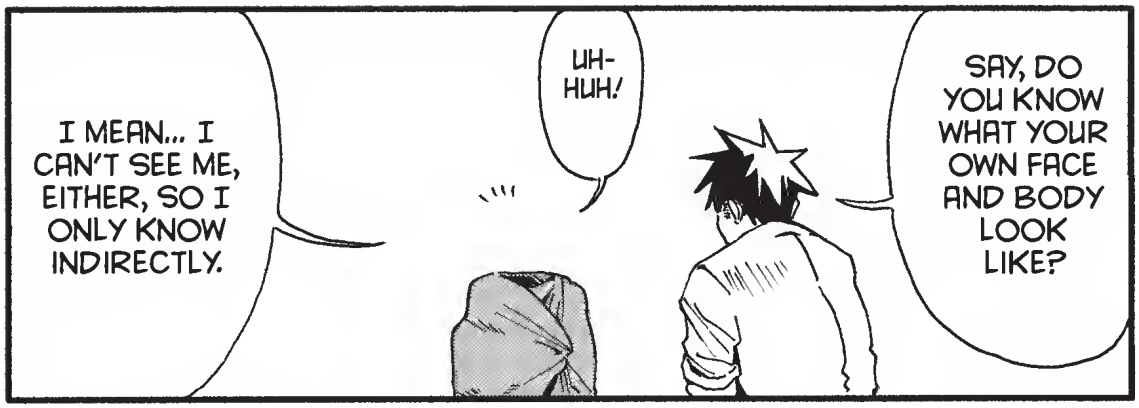
THAT'S SOMETHING. I CAN SENSE YOU EXIST, BUT I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.
HUH...
HI...
RIGHT HERE
HELLO!
I SEE... THAT'S GREAT, I GUESS.
BUT AREN'T YOU EMBARRASSED?
SURE AM! THAT SEEMED MORE "INVISIBLE PERSON"-ISH TO ME.
ARE YOU... NAKED, PERCHANCE?
...
I SUPPOSE THAT MAKES SENSE...
UH-HUH...
HUH?
WHY SHOULD I BE EMBARRASSED IF NO ONE CAN SEE ME?
?

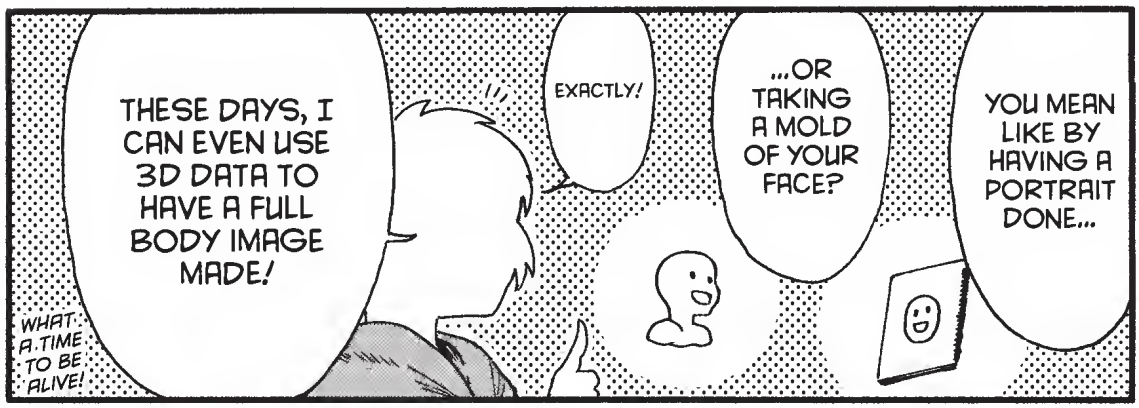

HE SAID IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE VISIBLE OR NOT. THAT THE PROBLEM IS BEING NAKED IN PUBLIC.
I SEE.
OH?
A-SAN
BUT ANOTHER INVISIBLE PERSON I KNOW SAID HE GETS EMBARRASSED.
OH,

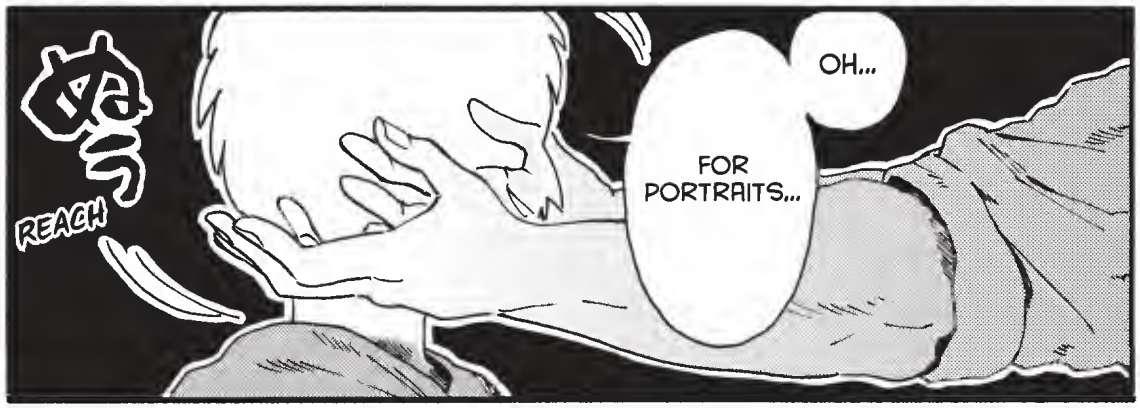

COULD SHE BE FUNDAMENTALLY CORRECT? HRM. THIS FEELS A BIT LIKE "I THINK, THEREFORE I AM."
OR AM I JUST UNREFLECTIVELY APPLYING AN ARBITRARY ETHICAL STANDARD?
HMMM. I HAVE TO SAY, I'M WITH HER FRIEND ON THIS ONE.

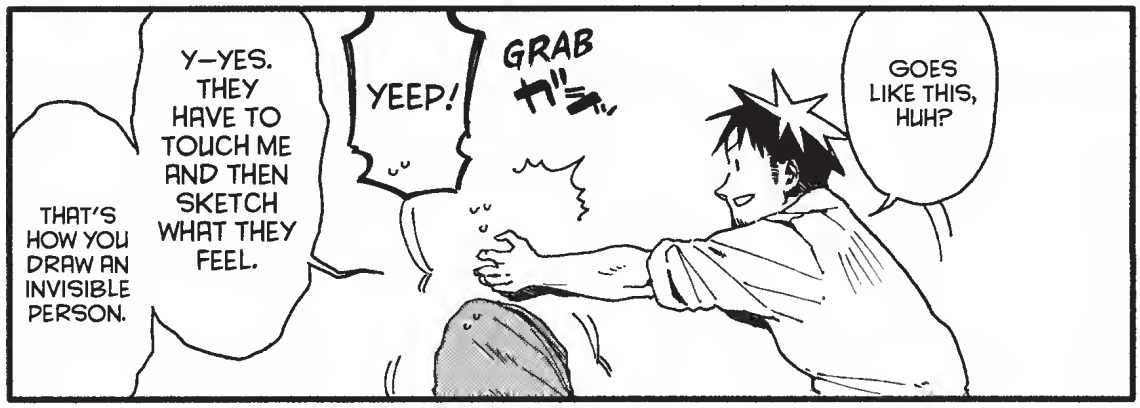
IS THAT A PROBLEM? OR IS IT OKAY IF I CAN'T SEE HER?
...
THERE'S A NAKED GIRL IN FRONT OF ME.
THIS SITUATION PRESENTS A CHALLENGE TO MY ETHICS.

OKAY.
EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN'T SEE ME?
I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.
COULD YOU PUT SOMETHING ON, FOR ME?
SORRY.


I MEAN... I CAN'T SEE ME, EITHER, SO I ONLY KNOW INDIRECTLY.
UH-HUH!
SAY, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR OWN FACE AND BODY LOOK LIKE?

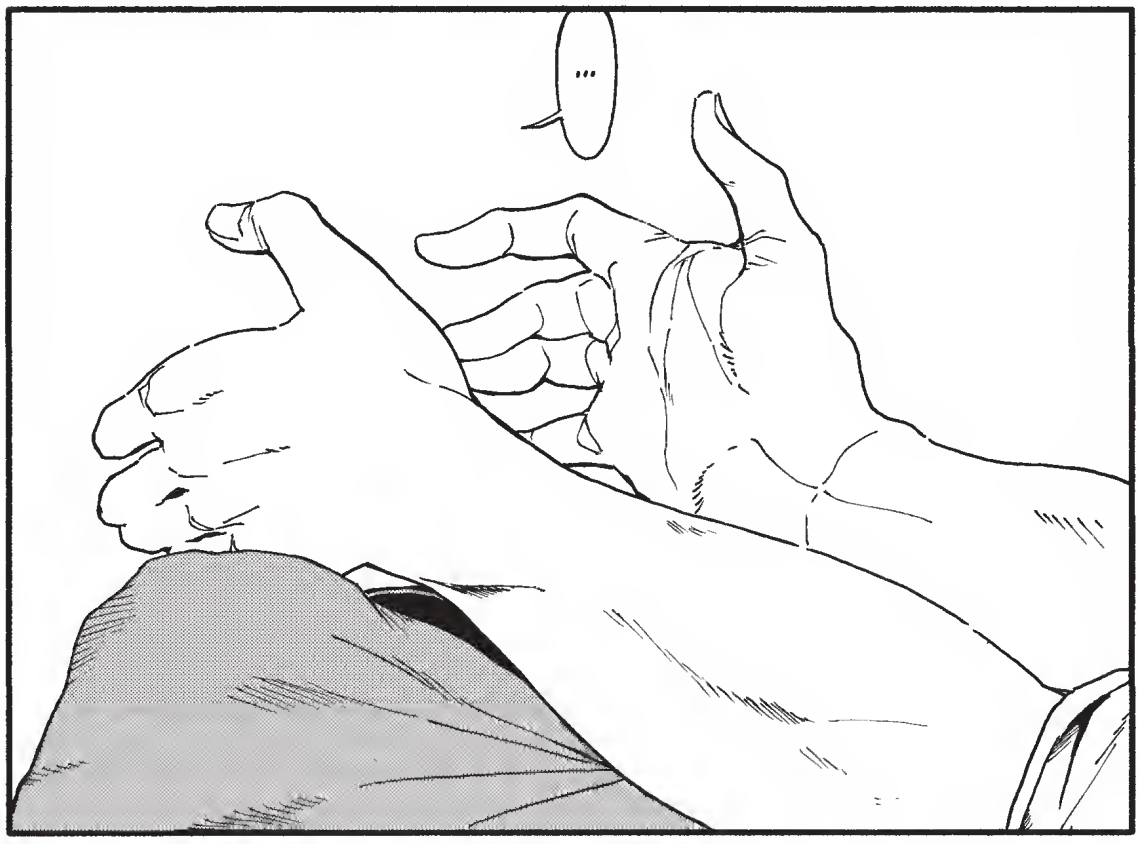

THESE DAYS, I CAN EVEN USE 3D DATA TO HAVE A FULL BODY IMAGE MADE!
WHAT A TIME TO BE ALIVE!
EXACTLY!
...OR TAKING A MOLD OF YOUR FACE?
YOU MEAN LIKE BY HAVING A PORTRAIT DONE...

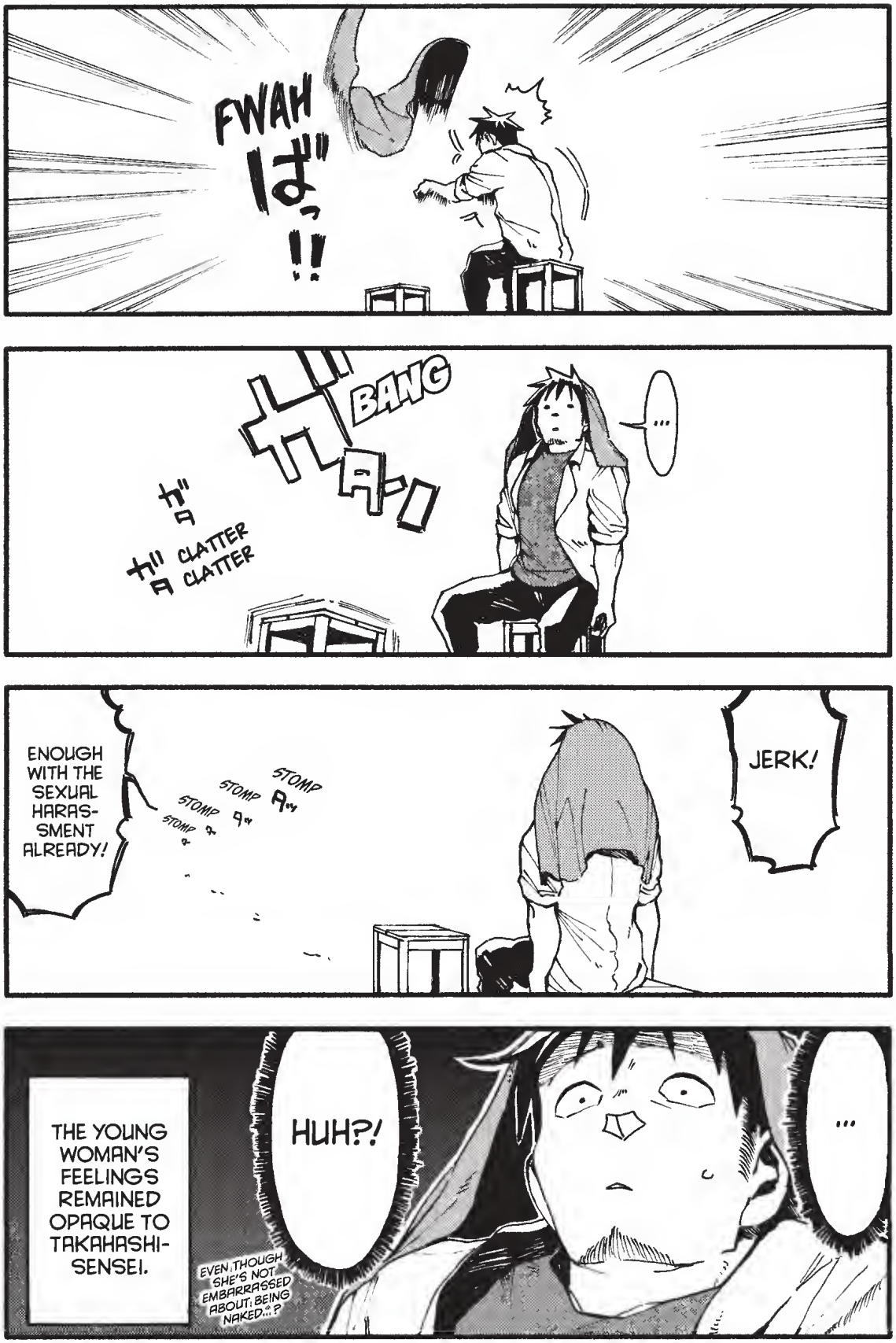

REACH
OH...
FOR PORTRAITS...


THAT'S HOW YOU DRAW AN INVISIBLE PERSON.
Y-YES. THEY HAVE TO TOUCH ME AND THEN SKETCH WHAT THEY FEEL.
YEEP!
GRAB
GOES LIKE THIS, HUH?

...COULD YOU SHOW ME YOUR FACE?
Y-YOU MEAN, SHOW YOU A PORTRAIT?
NO... THIS MAY BE MY ONLY CHANCE TO FEEL AN INVISIBLE PERSON'S FACE FOR MYSELF.
CLOSE YOUR EYES.
...
SO YOU HAVE LARGE-ISH EYES.
FEEL ごね
ごね FEEL
...
AND A STRONG NOSE.
I THINK.
THICK BROWS... AND HAIR... SORT OF LIKE BED HEAD?
さわさわ TOUCH TOUCH
...
I GUESS YOU DON'T HAVE TO STYLE IT FOR ANYBODY.
I SEE...
HM...

ERK.
KIND OF LIKE THIS?

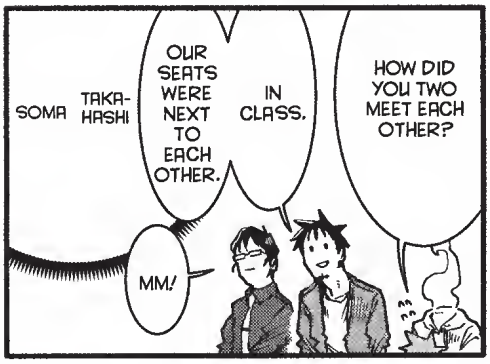

...


FWAH
BANG
CLATTER
CLATTER
...
ENOUGH WITH THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALREADY!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
JERK!
THE YOUNG WOMAN'S FEELINGS REMAINED OPAQUE TO TAKAHASHI-SENSEI.
HUH?!
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NOT EMBARRASSED ABOUT BEING NAKED...?
...

SORRY, I CAN'T SEE THAT FAR AHEAD...
WILL INVISIBLE PEOPLE APPEAR IN THE MAIN STORY?

TRANSLATION NOTES

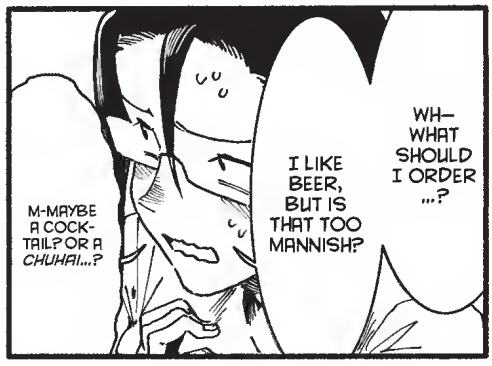
Manju, page 26
A *manju* is a small cake with a skin made of rice flour, usually stuffed with a filling like *anko* (red bean paste).



Seats next to each other, page 53
In the Japanese alphabet order, the syllables "So" and "Ta" are next to each other. Thus, **So**ma and **Ta**kahashi have a good chance of being sat next to each other alphabetically, depending on who else is in the class.

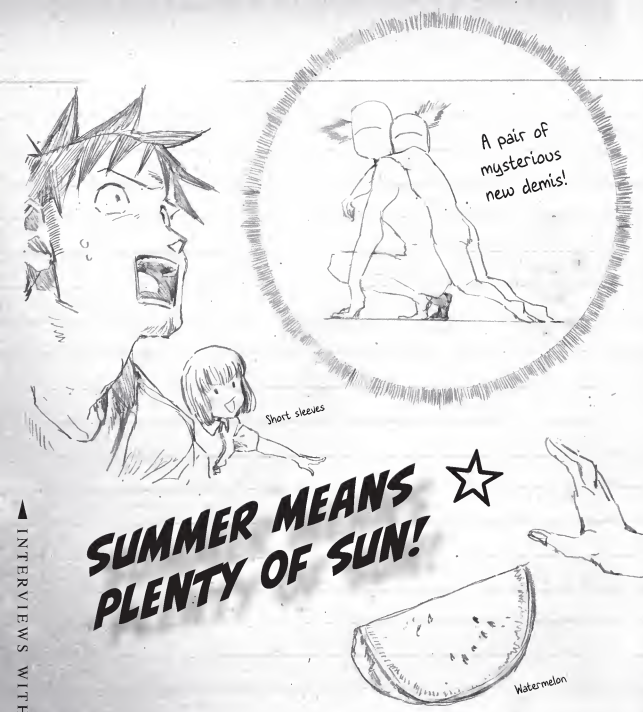
Blood, page 60
Sakie says the answer to the riddle is *Chi ga tarinai*, or "[it] lacks *chi*." In the puzzle on this page, the syllable *chi* is missing from the names of Tochigi and Chiba (both Japanese prefectures). But *chi* can also mean "blood"—just what Van Deursen wants!

Mr. Vice-Principal, page 87
The number-two teacher-administrator in a Japanese high school has the title *kyoto* (lit. "education chief," second only to the *kocho* or "school head"). Students as well as other teachers refer to him by this title plus the honorific "*–sensei*."



***Chuhai*, page 131**
A carbonated alcoholic drink that can be purchased in can form. It's made by mixing *shochu* (a Japanese alcohol) and carbonated water, and comes in a number of fruit flavors. Definitely not for minors!

Niconico Seiga, page 133
Niconico is a Japanese video hosting and sharing service, a bit like YouTube.



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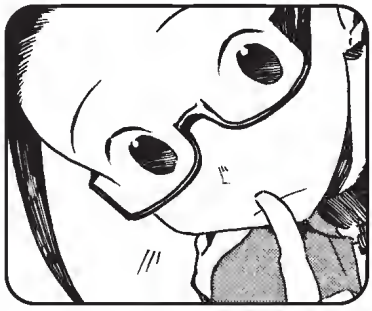
STOP!

You are going the wrong way!

Manga is a completely different type of reading experience.

To start at the BEGINNING, go to the END!



That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the opposite of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: just go to the other end of the book, and read each page—and each panel—from the right side to the left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be.